

THE NONCONFORMIST.

"The dissidence of dissent and the protestantism of the protestant religion."

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Eccliaastical Affairs.

FACTS AND DUTIES.

THE entire success of the late Anti-state-church Conference is, perhaps, all circumstances considered, the most remarkable fact of the present age—it is one, moreover, with which every conscientious nonconformist is bound to deal. Seven hundred representatives have met together, have deliberately recorded their solemn protest against every form of union between church and state, and have organised an association, the sole object of which is the liberation of religion from the interference of secular governments. That is now matter of history; and, as such, it necessarily appeals to the world, but especially to dissenters, for admission into the mind as one of the elements which must henceforth be taken into account in determining future conduct. Honest men must now settle the question of their duty in relation to it. A mere purpose, an avowed intention, a thought not yet embodied, a conception not brought to the birth, they might possibly hold themselves justified in treating with indifference—but now that that purpose has become a reality, and that it has made its appearance in this world of ours as a grave and sober fact, it *must* be dealt with, and, by good men, must be dealt with under a due sense of responsibility. We say not, what ought, in our judgment, to be men's views of it, or of their individual obligations in regard to it. We shall not essay to resolve the problem whether the cause of truth may be best served by scouting, or by hailing, it—by depreciating its character, or by recognising its importance—by dropping into other men's minds all those inuendoes and suspicions which may grow up into a definite distrust and hatred of it, or by seriously examining its claims upon attention, and frankly acknowledging such of its merits as may be discerned. But we do say that it now comes before them in a shape entitling it to demand that the line of conduct adopted and pursued in reference to it, shall be adopted and pursued as the result of calm inquiry and of unhesitating conviction of duty. If it is to be shunned, it should be shunned on principle—if scoffed at, it should be scoffed at on principle. It has taken its station in the rank of actual existences—men have their respective relationships to it, whether they will or no—those relationships involve accountability—and that accountability absolutely requires, in order to its discharge, that what is done shall be done with fixedness of purpose.

We are particularly anxious to call the attention of those dissenters who have hitherto stood aloof from the new movement, to this especial feature of the case; and we respectfully submit that it may claim consideration, careful and conscientious, in proportion to the prominence of the station they may happen to occupy. For the sake of making ourselves thoroughly understood, we shall risk the charge of iteration. We state once more, then, and with emphasis, that the assembling of seven hundred delegates from all parts of the empire, for the sole purpose of promoting the dissolution of the alliance between church and state, is a *fact*. It is a fact that they unitedly sought heaven's blessing on their undertaking. It is a fact that they concurred in several series of resolutions, setting forth their views on this important question, and the grounds of them. It is a fact that they remained together in deliberation during three days, and for nine hours a day, at the least; and that, throughout this exciting period they demeaned

themselves like Christian men engaged in the performance of a solemn duty. It is a fact that they maintained an uninterrupted harmony of feeling to the very close of their proceedings; and that the practical fruit of their labours was the constitution of a society pledged to attempt, by all legal, moral, and suitable means, the enlightenment of the public mind on the subject of state churches, and the enlistment, in a holy warfare against them, of all the wisdom, worth, and energy of the religious world. Here, then, is a cluster of facts, with which for every honest dissenter to deal; and we make bold to say, that no nonconformist *can*, as a conscientious man, deal with them otherwise than seriously.

For, let it be considered, that the aspect of the whole affair in relation to individual duty is changed by its transition from the region of the possible, into that of the actual. It is now one of the materials woven into the complicated plan of providence. We do not assume that it has therefore the sanction of Him who presides over universal government. But He has permitted it to be, and to be in this especial shape; He has, consequently, something to accomplish by it. It is a thread gathered up into His hands, to be wrought into the general tissue of events whereby He will eventually illustrate the glory of his designs. It has ceased to be a speculation, over which men may exert some control. It has passed into an unalterable state. No human mind has further power over it. It will give its own impulse to the mind of the present generation, and through it to all future ones, whatever the wise or the foolish may wish in respect of it. It is one of the elements for good or for evil which is destined to do its work in this world of ours. And we venture to think that, as such, it cannot be a thing upon which men who anticipate the final triumph of truth may look with indifference. If they have not inquired before, they are bound to inquire now—if before they have acted thoughtlessly, they are under obligation now to act with care, and of set purpose. They have a duty to discharge in connexion with it—a duty which nothing but sheer inconsistency can evade. They are called upon to range themselves and their influence on the one side or on the other—to obstruct, or to aid, the growth of this fact—to move with it, or to stand out with intelligible decision against it.

What, now, is the tendency of this fact? Whither does it point? Assume that the spirituality of the church of Christ is a scriptural truth, and one of unquestionable importance, and then let the history of the Anti-state-church Conference be glanced at. Is the intermeddling of statesmen with the affairs of religion conducive to the spirituality of the church? If not—if, on the contrary, it is, as far as it can reach, destructive of it—is the meeting together of a great body of men who believe this, for the purpose of declaring their belief and the basis on which it rests, calculated to hinder or to promote the object at which they aim? Will the truth suffer aught from their proceedings? Will their united supplications, their evident earnestness of heart, their singular unanimity, their abstinence from all bitterness of expression, and, finally, their organisation to effect a realisation of their views, tend of necessity, or by natural implication, to foster and give strength to the error which they condemn? Does it seem likely that this is the intention of the great Head of the church in permitting this fact to be? Again we ask, whither does it look? The members of the Conference, after patient and protracted deliberation—influenced by no worldly attractions, for worldly attractions are on the other side of the scale—calmly, seriously, prayerfully, without even a passing show of violence, without betraying any marks of insincerity or hypocrisy, or even of fanaticism—band themselves together to assert a scriptural truth, in the face of a sneering world. Why has that fact been written on the page of history? Why has it ever been? In what direction will its tendencies be developed? If any intelligent dissenter can make out to his satisfaction that the event was permitted with a view to retard the progress of public conviction on this head, let him religiously denounce it—publicly and privately let him assail it with every suitable weapon he has at command. But if he cannot; if, on the other hand, he discerns any prospect of the action of this Conference in furtherance of a great truth, then let him have a care how he stands aloof from it,

lest, peradventure, he should be found casting contempt upon an instrument which his Master deigns to employ for working out one of his most magnificent designs.

Taking our stand, then, upon the facts already adverted to, we venture, with all earnestness, to blow the trumpet of exhortation. A movement has set in towards the actualisation of a great truth. Brother nonconformists, we invite you to join and to aid it! Come forward and co-operate with us, in seeking the enfranchisement of every form of Christianity from state thralldom! We have reared the standard of our Sovereign, upon which is inscribed the motto, "My kingdom is not of this world." You may judge our zeal to have been premature—but the standard already floats in the breeze. In His name we set it up—and, reliant on His guidance, we shall rally our forces around it. There it is—and not all the wishing on earth can bring it down. It is now for you to decide what is your proper place in relation to it—whether you will turn your backs upon it, or range yourselves beneath it. We ask no half-convinced, no hesitating, no reluctant comrades in this warfare. But for your own sakes, as well as for the truth's sake, we will not cease to urge upon you what in our sober judgment we take to be the duty devolved by Providence upon the present generation of dissenters.

SCHEME OF ORGANISATION TO LIBERATE RELIGION IN THE BRITISH EMPIRE FROM STATE INTERFERENCE.

[We present our readers this week with the scheme of organisation adopted by the Anti-state-church Conference, on Thursday, May 2nd. It appears in our columns as it was amended by that body; two or three verbal alterations only having been made, and a word or two omitted here and there upon the recommendation of a legal adviser. The scheme, as it is now given, will, we have every reason to believe, undergo no further revision which can in the smallest degree affect the general purport of its provisions.]

I. That a society be now formed, to be intitled, "THE BRITISH ANTI-STATE-CHURCH ASSOCIATION."

II. That this Society be based upon the following principle:—"That in matters of religion man is responsible to God alone; that all legislation by secular governments in affairs of religion is an encroachment upon the rights of man, and an invasion of the prerogatives of God; and that the application by law of the resources of the state to the maintenance of any form or forms of religious worship and instruction is contrary to reason, hostile to human liberty, and directly opposed to the word of God."

III. That the object of this Society be—the liberation of religion from all governmental or legislative interference.

IV. That this object be sought by lawful and peaceful means, and by such means only.

V. That every individual subscribing to the principle upon which this Society is based, and contributing not less than one shilling annually to its general fund, be admissible as a member.

VI. That the officers of this Society consist of a treasurer, three secretaries, three auditors, a council of five hundred, and an executive committee of fifty members; that the place of meeting of the Executive Committee be in London; and that the members of the Council be entitled, when in London, to sit at the Committee board, and to take part in their deliberations.

VII. That the whole of the officers be, in the first instance, elected by the present Conference.

VIII. That the Treasurer, Secretaries, and Auditors, be elected in open conference, and be subject to the following regulations:—

1. No individual shall be acknowledged as an officer of this Society until he have declared his adhesion to the principle on which it is founded.
2. Each officer shall hold office during the Society's pleasure, except as hereinafter provided for.

IX. That the Council of five hundred be elected by the Conference alone, and be subject to revision, as to its composition, at each succeeding Conference.

1. The members of the Council shall be thus apportioned—three hundred for England, one hundred for Scotland, fifty for Ireland, and fifty for Wales.
2. Vacancies in the Council shall not be filled up until the next Conference after they occur.
3. A Conference shall be convened once in three years at least, to be constituted in the same manner as the Anti-state-church Conference of 1844.

X. That the Executive Committee be elected, in the first instance, by the Conference; be altered or re-appointed from time to time by the Council at its pleasure; and be liable to be altered, dismissed, or re-appointed at each succeeding Conference.

XI. That vacancies in the offices of Treasurer, Secretary, and Auditor, and in the Executive Committee, be filled up by the Council in the following manner:—

1. Any such vacancy shall, within a month after its occurrence, be signified by the Executive Committee, through the post, to each member of the Council.
2. The Executive Committee may nominate to fill up vacancies, but each member of the Council shall be at liberty to disregard such nominations, and to vote for other persons whom he may deem more eligible—marking those names presented by the Committee for which he votes, or erasing those which he rejects, and substituting such as he may prefer.
3. The circulars thus marked being returned by post to the Committee, they shall ascertain who have the majority of votes, and announce the result by public advertisement.

XII. That the duties of the several classes of officers be as follows:—

1. The treasurer shall pay into the hands of a banker, selected by the Executive Committee, and in the name of "The British Anti-state-church Association," all monies transmitted to him for the benefit of the society; shall keep a correct account of all such monies, and of the names of the persons by whom they are sent; shall pay, by cheques on the banker, signed with his name, such, and only such, sums of money, in liquidation of claims against this society, as the Executive Committee shall at any one of its meetings direct; and shall annually prepare a balance-sheet to be presented to the Council at its first meeting after January in each year.
2. The secretaries shall so arrange among themselves, as that one of them, at least, shall be in attendance, at each meeting of the Council and of the Executive Committee, to take minutes of the proceedings, which shall be read for confirmation at their next meetings respectively; shall, with such assistance as the Executive Committee may deem necessary, conduct all the correspondence of the society, summon the members of the Executive Committee and of the Council to their ordinary and special meetings, and prepare and arrange the business to be laid before them; shall keep a correct register of the names of the members of this society—issuing to them annually fresh cards of membership; shall hand over to the Treasurer all monies received by them for the benefit of this society, with a correct account of the same; and shall obtain reimbursement for petty expenses incurred by them in transacting the business of this society, by means of orders on the treasurer, authorised by the Executive Committee, and signed by the chairman for the time being, and by two members, at least, of the Executive Committee.
3. The auditors shall examine and audit the society's accounts annually, making such remarks on any item of expense as they may deem to be to be called for, and shall present their report to the Council, at its first meeting after January in each year.

XIII. That the Council meet once in twelve months, at least, the time and place of their next meeting being fixed by themselves at each successive meeting, and that the following be their powers and duties:—

1. They shall elect to all offices except in their own body, which may be vacated by death or otherwise, during the interval between one conference and another.
2. They shall determine all plans of importance connected with the operations of this society; and, whatsoever they determine, the Executive Committee shall carry into effect, according to their instructions.
3. They shall superintend the affairs of this society, making arrangements for the holding of conferences, whenever and wherever it may, in their judgment, be expedient; but, under any circumstances, they shall call a general conference at least once in three years.

XIV. That the constitution, duties, and responsibilities of the Executive Committee be the following:—

1. They shall meet once a month, at least, being summoned by circular from the secretaries, at some fixed place of business to be selected by themselves.
2. It shall be their first duty to carry out the plans of the Council.
3. They shall take measures for the collection and digest of statistical and other information relative to state churches, and shall procure, by public competition or otherwise, the writing of such tracts, or larger treatises, on the question of national religious establishments, as they may deem requisite to further the objects of this Society.
4. They shall regulate the movements of public lecturers engaged in the name of this Society, and shall give advice to individuals wishing to form similar associations.

5. They shall carry into execution, as opportunities present themselves, the several modes of action prescribed by the Council, shall act as a general committee of advice whenever occasions may require, and shall have power to call to-

gether the Council whenever, in their judgment, it may appear desirable.

6. They shall hold themselves responsible to the Council, by whose decisions they shall be bound.

XV. That the following be among the modes of action contemplated by this society:—

1. The collection and digest, from authentic public documents, of all such information as may throw light upon the nature and tendency of state churches.
2. The securing original essays on the question of state churches, for popular use, and fitted to supply to the public, and especially to dissenters, needful and useful information on the subject.
3. The employment of lecturers, gratuitous or otherwise, under the sanction and direction of the Executive Committee; to explain and enforce the fundamental principle of this society; to expose the evils which have resulted, and are inseparable, from any form of alliance between church and state; and to rouse the public, and especially professed nonconformists, to an earnest consideration of their duty in this matter.
5. The giving advice to individuals wishing to form similar associations, for the purpose of diffusing correct information, and of bringing public opinion to bear, as prudence may dictate, upon the composition of the House of Commons, and upon the decisions of the Imperial parliament.
6. The promotion of the return to parliament, wherever practicable, of men of known integrity and ability, conversant with the principles of this society, and disposed to avail themselves of all suitable occasions for exciting discussion thereupon, and ready to promote its object; and the furnishing of such members, when returned, with all the special information the society can command.
7. The support of such members whenever the Council shall deem it advisable to agitate the question of state-churches in the legislature, by means of petitions to the Houses of Parliament, and memorials to the throne, and in other appropriate and constitutional ways.
8. The removal of the question of national religious establishments as much as possible from under the influence of party feeling; the placing it upon the ground of what is due to pure and undefiled religion, and to the best interests, temporal and spiritual, of the people; and the enlistment of the sincerely religious of all classes of the community by energetic appeals to conscience.
9. The adoption of preparatory measures for obtaining the repeal of all existing laws directly or indirectly involving the union of the church with the state; and the enactment of laws adapted to carry out, to their legitimate extent, the principles of religious liberty.
10. The employment of whatsoever lawful and peaceful means may be adapted to promote the one great object of "The British Anti-state-church Association."

THE NORWICH CHURCH-RATE CASE.

This case came on for judgment in the court of Queen's Bench on Thursday last, under the opposing names Francis v. Steward. The plaintiff in the present case had been cited to appear in the Arches court of Canterbury, and to answer for having contumaciously obstructed, or at least refused to make, or join or concur in the making, of a sufficient rate for the necessary repair of the church of the parish of St George, Colegate, in the city of Norwich, the plaintiff being a parishioner of that parish, and liable as such to a rate for the repair of the church. The plaintiff appeared in the court Christian, and there, through his representative, protested that upon the face of the citation it did not appear that he had been guilty of any ecclesiastical offence cognisable by the said court or any other ecclesiastical court; neither did it appear that the said parish church was in want of repairs, or that any vestry had been held for the purpose of making any rate, or that the plaintiff had been present at any such vestry, if any such had been held. This protest, having been argued before Sir Herbert Jenner Fust, was overruled by that learned judge. A petition of appeal to the Privy Council was lodged against this decision, but the appeal seems not to have been hitherto prosecuted any further; but a rule was obtained, calling upon the defendant to show cause why a writ should not issue prohibiting the judge of the Arches court from proceeding any further in the cause. A declaration in prohibition was subsequently filed; and the defendant having demurred to the declaration, the case came on to be argued upon the demurrer upon the 26th of April, when the Solicitor-general and Mr Tomlinson appeared to contend for the sufficiency of the citation, and Mr Roebuck and Mr Mellor to support the declaration in prohibition.

On Thursday Lord Chief Justice Denman delivered judgment. His lordship said, that the Court could hardly see how it was possible that the refusal to join in making a church rate must be an offence in any single parishioner, inasmuch as it was not necessary that all the parishioners should unite in making it. The making of the rate was an act that could be done by the majority of the parishioners; and, where it had been done, what offence could there be in having refused to concur in it? Where, on the other hand, no rate had been imposed, that want of a positive result could not have been produced by the fact of a single parishioner's having refused his concurrence. If he had done anything for the purpose of defeating the measure; if he had for such purpose been guilty of either violence or fraud; if, by intimidation or bribery, he attempted to prevent other persons from

voting in support of the rate; if he practised any deception upon the other parishioners as to the time or the place of the meeting; if he persuaded others to absent themselves, or even deliberately absented himself, in order to prevent a regular assembly, he might, by any such act or omission, become liable to the consequences of criminal behaviour. But all these facts were capable of being distinctly stated as constituting each a sufficient and substantive offence, and were entirely independent of the mere omission, or even refusal, to join in the making of the rate. But further, it was questionable whether the more decisive charge of having "obstructed the making of a church rate" constituted a sufficient allegation of an ecclesiastical offence. It might be the duty of the party so charged to obstruct the imposition of the rate. A meeting was duly convened for the purpose of considering the propriety of granting the rate. (In the present case it has not even alleged that such a meeting had been assembled.) The parishioners were summoned for the purpose of participating in the deliberations of the meeting, and of exercising their judgments upon the subject for consideration. Might they not exercise them with freedom, and were they bound to vote in the affirmative alone? No such restriction was placed upon them by the law, which permitted them to object to the amount of the rate, and even to refuse it altogether. For these and other reasons, his lordship said, the citation appeared to this court to be bad, inasmuch as it contained no adequate allegation of any spiritual offence. The judgment of the court, therefore, would be given in favour of the plaintiffs in prohibition, and in opposition to the judgment of the court below.

In a letter in Monday's *Patriot*, Messrs Alexander, Brock, and Reed, dissenting ministers of Norwich, who have been most active in this case, say "We are in the height of enthusiasm. Immediately on the reception of the news, the parishioners of St George's, Colegate, assembled in vestry by public notice. The decision of the court was announced, and the following resolution unanimously passed, and ordered to be recorded on the parish book:—

"That this vestry has heard, with the highest satisfaction, the result of the proceedings in the court of Queen's Bench in the case of Francis v. Steward, and that the congratulations of this meeting be given to the parties prosecuted, and its warmest thanks to all parties through whose instrumentality this happy issue has been attained."

We are making arrangements for a congratulatory public meeting on Wednesday evening next."

KETTERING.—ANTI-STATE-CHURCH CONFERENCE.

A public meeting took place at the independent chapel in this town, on Tuesday evening, the 6th instant, to receive the report of the delegates lately returned from attending the Anti-state-church Convention, and for considering the best means of forwarding its object. Several influential members of the Society of Friends, and other respectable inhabitants of the place, were upon the platform. Mr T. Waddington occupied the chair, and after a few appropriate remarks, Mr J. Spence gave a clear and concise statement of the proceedings of the first day's Convention. He had attended the prayer meeting held early in the morning, and never should he forget the devotional fervour by which it was characterised. It seemed as though the spirit of all grace were in their midst—so deep, so solemn, so affecting, were the supplications then offered. He gave, also, a lengthened abstract of Dr Wardlaw's able paper, which appeared to excite considerable interest. Mr W. Robinson took a rapid glance at the other two days' proceedings, and gave a masterly exposition of the tremendous evils resulting from a state church. Seeing these evils were so great, he could not, he dare not, as a man, as a Christian man, but oppose a system which was daily destroying so vast a multitude of immortal souls. Mr J. Jenkinson also delivered a very able address during the evening. A committee was appointed to decide upon measures until the plan of the organisation committee should be completed. The meeting then separated.

METROPOLITAN ANTI-STATE-CHURCH ASSOCIATION.

—The monthly meeting of this Society was held at the King's Head, Poultry, on Wednesday last, Mr B. Dixon in the chair. After some minor business had been disposed of, the following resolution, in reference to the late conference, was unanimously adopted:—

"Resolved.—That this Association rejoices that the proposal to hold a conference of the friends of the voluntary principle has been received so cordially by the public, and that from all parts of the United Kingdom delegates, to the number of upwards of seven hundred, have been sent. It rejoices that its deliberations were characterised by so much prudence, zeal, union, and talent, and that out of it an organisation has arisen by which the question of state churches will be brought before the British public, so as ultimately to secure the triumph of anti-state-church principles."

A discussion took place as to what steps it would be desirable for the Association to take, in consequence of the formation of the "British Anti-state-church Association." The further consideration of the subject was ultimately deferred to the next meeting. A vote of thanks was unanimously passed to the chairman, and the meeting separated.

MEETING OF THE LONDON MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

—A correspondent of the *Patriot*, writing last Thursday, complains:—"I am greatly surprised and annoyed to see a rail, about nine feet high, running across the hall, and dividing one part of the meeting from the other. I am told that the part within the rail, and nearest the platform, is called 'the reserved seats.' Surely, Mr Editor, there were distinctions enough in the former meetings of this society, without adding this very odious and palpable one. This vile rail has not been used at the meeting of any other society."



THE RHYME OF THE RATE.—We have received the following amusing parody of Hood's "Song of the Shirt," applied to the subject of church rates. It has been published as a handbill, and "Respectfully inscribed to the rate-payers of St Giles," Cambridge.

With neckcloth whiter than snow,
With whiskers bushy and black,
The Vicar sate in his easy chair,
Though his mind was on the rack.
But a change came o'er his dream,
And he look'd amazingly great,
As he took the pen in his jewell'd hand,
And scrawl'd the Rhyme of the Rate.

"Cash! Cash! Cash!"
Is the Christian churchman's lay;
And the gospel herald's voice of love
Is, Pay!—Pay!—Pay!
And it's O! to plunder and steal;
And it's O! to pilfer and rob;
And dignify, with the holiest names,
The dirtiest parish job!

"Pay!—Pay!—Pay!"
Though we told you, one and all,
We had made, so many months ago,
Our full, and our final, call.
The fools, who took our word,
Which we never meant to keep,
Shall know to-night, that might gives right,
For we'll fleece the silly sheep.

"Transept, and Steeple, and Choir,
Crocket, and Corbel, and Niche!
We study the souls of the poor—
Next to the taste of the rich!
Then, Pay! Pay! Pay!
The church was erected for you;
And we ask but a fourpenny rate
To shut you all out from a view!

"If what is mine, be mine;
And what is yours, be yours,
We haven't a peg to stand upon
Till we fly to *Sturges Bourne*.
Thus we'll swamp the honest poor
By the mercenary great;
We'll poll the parish, and do you yet
To the tune of a thumping rate."

A DISSENTING MINISTER ON DISSENTING PRINCIPLES.—The Rev. H. Christopherson, of the Baptist chapel, New court, Newcastle, delivered a lecture on Sunday evening, from 1 Kings iii. 25, 26, in which he attacked, in no measured terms, the late Anti-state-church Conference, and those dissenters generally who are friendly to the separation of church and state! The Rev. Dr Cox, one of the leading promoters of the conference, is shortly to ordain Mr Christopherson!—*Gateshead Observer*. A correspondent, in directing our attention to the above, writes:—

"The application of this singular text you may gather from the following sentence, one of many similar which he uttered. 'The noisy and political dissenter says, Give me my rights, and destroy the child; but the Christian dissenter says, Spare the child, destroy it not.' Again, 'There was a time when there was but one man on earth that would betray his master, and he was a disciple; but now his professed followers have combined together to sell his cause, and to crucify their Lord afresh.'"

SCOTTISH AFFAIRS.

UNITED SECESSION CHURCH OF SCOTLAND. (From our own Correspondent).

The supreme court or synod of the United Secession church, of which Drs Marshall, Ritchie, Young, Thomson, and others who appeared at the Anti-state-church Conference, are ministers, commenced its sittings in Glasgow, on Monday, the 6th current, at half-past six in the evening. The introductory devotional services were gone about by Mr Thomas Struthers, of Hamilton, the retiring moderator, who afterwards preached an eloquent and appropriate sermon from Isaiah xxvii. 6—"He shall cause them that come of Jacob to take root: Israel shall blossom and bud, and fill the face of the world with fruit." In proceeding to the choice of a new moderator, Mr Thomas Sturke, of Forres, Morayshire, was unanimously appointed to that office; who took the chair accordingly. The greater part of the forenoon of Tuesday, as is usual, was appropriated to devotional exercises and routine business connected with the arrangement of bills and overtures intended to come under the consideration of the synod. In the afternoon sederunt, a proposal, long pending, of a union between the United Secession and the Relief churches, was, at the instance of pressing overtures from many highly influential congregations and inferior courts of the body, for immediate steps being adopted thereunto, was taken into consideration; when, after much interesting discussion, a committee was appointed to consider what measures would most likely facilitate such a desirable object, and to report at the meeting of the court on Friday. On Wednesday, *inter alia*, the synod took under consideration an important overture by Mr George Lawson, of Selkirk, to the effect that "the synod should institute a general and careful revision of the subordinate standards and formularies of the United Secession church, with the following views:—1st, That it be ascertained whether there are not certain points in them which may be properly expunged, as not entitled to hold the place of articles of Christian or ministerial communion—2nd, That it be ascertained whether there are other positions which may admit

of a plainer and more distinct statement: the changes which have passed in the meaning of many words in our language may warrant the supposition, without the slightest reflection on the venerable and excellent persons by whom they were framed—and, 3rd, That it be ascertained whether it is practicable to abridge these formularies to a very great extent, and thus render them the more easily understood in their various bearings, and thus more thoroughly gain the end of ascertaining and preserving such a uniformity of views as is desirable and necessary to a comforting and edifying ministerial fellowship."

Mr L., in support of the above, spoke at considerable length; viewing it as one which involved the peace and prosperity of the church. While in these standards, he frankly admitted there were no real contradictions; yet to him it appeared that there were some things unnecessarily introduced into such important documents, and others which led to doubt and hesitation as to their specific meaning. The whole, indeed, demanded simplification. In case he should be met with the cry of innovation, he referred to the much-esteemed lectures of Dr Dick, one of their late professors, wherein most advisedly it was stated that "there was room for revising all human creeds and confessions, and that the venerable compilers of these standards, who had gone before them, never intended finality in respect to their statement of doctrinal points." Mr L. was supported in his views by Professor Bulmer and others, who contended that it was the duty of the church, not only to revise their standards, but to adopt this course periodically, and that those in question were necessarily voluminous. At the same time the professor gladly admitted that his firm persuasion was, that "these documents were in doctrine substantially one." The above was opposed by Drs Hay, Heugh, Ritchie, Young, and others, simply on the ground that, however frequently and long they had meditated the expediency of the course proposed, yet, owing to the existing agitation of the church on certain doctrinal points, they deemed it most unseasonable; and, therefore, recommended that the overture should lie on the table till they were in a state to proceed calmly and solemnly to the wished-for revision of the documents in question. On the proposal of three votes, namely—"Whether the overture lie on the table;" or "whether the synod should appoint a committee to take the subject into consideration, and report;" or "whether the synod recognise it to be lawful to revise the confession of faith and other standards of the church, they agree to delay in the mean time, in the hope that a favourable opportunity will ere long occur for that purpose"—the last, on a show of hands, was struck off, and in voting the two others, 84 voted for the first, and 129 for the second; thus rendering it the decision of synod, by a respectable majority, that "a committee should be named to take the subject into consideration, and report;" which was appointed accordingly. In the evening sederunt a most interesting conversation took place on the all-exciting topic of missions, both at home and abroad, suitably intermingled at intervals with devotional exercises. The secretary of the Home Mission committee stated that they had fifty-six flourishing stations, besides twenty others in towns—some of which were in the most destitute localities of England as well as Scotland. The expenses of this mission for the past year, including the sums allotted to this specific object by their more public-spirited congregations, amounted to upwards of £5,000. The secretary of the Foreign Missions reported that everything in his field of labour had assumed a most promising aspect. One tenth part of the loud calls they had received for missionaries from foreign parts they had not been able to gratify, for lack of a sufficient number of agents presenting themselves to go thither. In order to "aid weak congregations in liquidating their debt," a society some years ago had been instituted. At the meeting of Synod last autumn a general collection for recruiting its funds had been ordered to take place throughout all the congregations of the body. The treasurer thereof accordingly had to report that in consequence of the extreme liberality of their congregations, a sum amounting to £8,000 had been put into his hands, to be exclusively devoted to this object. In furnishing any congregations with pecuniary aid, we understand that ere one farthing can be allotted for its assistance, it is an indispensable condition that the members thereof should also do something for themselves. On the evening of Thursday, a deputation which had been appointed for the specific object, at last meeting of the General Assembly of the Free church of Scotland, waited upon the Synod, and produced no ordinary excitement. The place of meeting, capable of holding two thousand people, was crowded in anticipation of it. The deputation consisted of Dr Thomas Brown (moderator), Dr Candlish, Dr Henderson, and Dr Smythe. They severally addressed the synod, in speeches of great eloquence, and effect. The audience as well as the court were greatly solemnised. Dr Heugh, then, in a speech of deep-toned Christian feeling, in his own name, and in the name, he might say, of all their church, moved a vote of thanks and sympathy towards the deputation, and the large influential body which they represented; which being in similar strains seconded by Dr Young, and most warmly supported by other members, received from the court a unanimous response; all which the Moderator of Synod intimated accordingly. The whole services of this solemn occasion occupied not less than *four hours*, including the devotional exercises—so pleasing was such reciprocation of Christian friendship found, and the adoption of measures for co-operating and "dwelling in unity" with such men of God.

DR CANDLISH.—A printed abstract of the accounts of the treasurer to Dr Candlish's congregation shows that the sums contributed by that congregation for Free church purposes, since the disruption, have exceeded £9900, and that this is exclusive of collections for other purposes and of subscriptions still unpaid, amounting together to more than £1200; that Dr Candlish refused to accept of more for his last year's salary than £200, and of this £200 he afterwards returned £50, besides declining his share of the General Sustentation fund.

FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND.—The General Assembly of the Free church of Scotland commences its half-yearly meeting in Cannonmills hall, Edinburgh, to-morrow, the 16th inst, at twelve at noon. Dr Thomas Brown, of St John's, Glasgow, is expected to deliver the introductory discourse; and business of great importance is in prospect. We hope to give a short sketch of the proceedings next week.

Correspondence.

THE ANTI-STATE-CHURCH CONFERENCE.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

DEAR SIR—Your report of a few words of mine towards the close of the Conference on Thursday evening last, makes me speak of myself as a Wesleyan minister. This is an error either of your printer or reporter, and may induce a belief that I magnified myself into importance by stating an untruth. I have no doubt that at a future conference many more Wesleyan methodists will be present than were at the recent one; but there would be no small inconsistency in any Wesleyan minister being present at such a conference, if he were party to the receipt of parliamentary and colonial grants, such as those which were last week acknowledged at the Wesleyan Missionary meeting, and, on the receipt of which, the Rev. Dr Russell, of the Free Scottish church, so feelingly congratulated the Wesleyan Missionary Committee. If the said reverend doctor has indeed escaped from Egypt, he, at least, betrayed a very serious longing for its "flesh-pots."

Let the Wesleyan community, however, become more extensively enlightened on the anti-state-church principles, and there will be a very "short and easy method," of putting a stop to these parliamentary and colonial bribes.

I am, dear sir, yours very truly,
Gloucester, May 8th, 1844. W. HIGGS.

Imperial Parliament.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

PETITIONS FOR THE WEEK.

Corn laws, against alteration of, 207.
Dissenters' Chapels bill, against, 3.
for, 1.
Ecclesiastical courts bill, against, 7.
Factories, for limiting hours of labour, 24.
against ditto, 15.
Game Laws, for alteration of, 1.
Local Courts, for establishment of, 6.
Marriages (Ireland), for declaring valid, 59.
Masters and Servants bill, against, 3.
Poor Law Amendment act, against, 3.
Registration of Voters (Ireland) bill, against, 22.
St Asaph and Bangor dioceses, against union of, 37.
Union with Ireland, for repeal of, 3.
Window Tax, for repeal of, 1.
Wool, for repeal of duty on, 1.

BILLS PRESENTED AND READ A FIRST TIME.

Stamp Duties bill.
County Rates bill.
Customs Duties bill.

BILLS READ A SECOND TIME.

Vinegar and Glass Duties bill.
Savings Banks bill.
Stamp Duties bill.
Customs Duties bill.
Turnpike Acts Continuance (Ireland) bill.
Unlawful Oaths (Ireland) bill.
Assaults (Ireland) bill.

CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE.

Poor Law Amendment bill.

READ A THIRD TIME AND PASSED.

Exchequer Bills bill.
Factories (No. 2) bill.

DEBATES.

Thursday, May 9th.

ABOLITION OF THE IRISH LORD-LIEUTENANCY.

In the House of Commons, on Thursday, Mr HUME brought forward a motion for abolishing the lord-lieutenancy of Ireland. He had always opposed the repeal agitation, and he was desirous to remove a principal cause of it. He made a similar proposition twenty years ago, but did not proceed to a division; in 1830 he again introduced it, and 117 members divided with him. By the union it was promised that peace and contentment should be given to Ireland; but now, at the end of forty-four years, it is found that those promises have not been realised, and that Ireland is as distracted and discontented as ever. Seeing the many evils arising from party feeling in that country, he thought that the worst kind of government which could be given to her was that of delegated authority. She is now little better than a colony of England, governed by a governor-general, like Jamaica or Canada. Compare this result with the effect of the complete union between Scotland and England, under one government, Scotland having prospered. Ireland would be better governed by a responsible minister of the Crown residing in London, than by several officers acting under a delegated authority in Dublin, and continually shifted. In thirty years preceding the union there were fourteen chief secretaries for Ireland; in the thirty years after it, sixteen; and there have been several since. To the complex delegated

* Vide the resolution of vestry of June 2, 1842, by which the Church-building committee agreed, and pledged themselves, that the sum of 12,000*l.* then voted, should be the entire amount of expense which should be called for from the parish rates for completing the church, including "all contingencies" which might hereafter arise for finishing the same.

† By *Sturges Bourne's* act a plurality of votes is given, by which the wealthy are enabled, in the proportion of one to six votes, to swamp the poorer class of rate-payers, who are thus taxed to gratify the vanity, promote the convenience, or relieve the purses of the richer parishioners. By this means the vote of vestry, refusing the application for more money, was reversed; and the additional sum of 1,800*l.* obtained.

authority might be imputed the delay in issuing the Clontarf proclamation. Ireland is now in the condition of a conquered country; and it would be impossible to assimilate her institutions to those of England without removing the viceroyalty. The arrangement, moreover, would conduce to public economy, as the viceregal expenses amount to £100,000 a-year, and it costs £1,000,000 a-year to keep the people down. He moved—

"That an humble address be presented to her Majesty, praying that she will be graciously pleased to consider whether it would not be for the advantage of Ireland, and to the interest of the United Kingdom, to abolish the office of lord-lieutenant of Ireland."

Captain BERNAL seconded the motion, following up Mr Hume's arguments. He cited the opinion of Mr Recorder Shaw and the Duke of Leinster against the lord-lieutenancy; suggested that the present grant for the viceregal expenses should still be spent in Dublin, in public works and relief from local taxation; and proposed, as a substitute for the lord-lieutenant, a fourth secretary of state, with a seat in the cabinet.

Lord ELIOT gave a qualified opposition to the motion. He said that Mr Hume and Captain Bernal had overstated the objections to the continuance of the office, and understated the objections to its discontinuance. He quoted Mr O'Connell's opinion that the Irish people would be generally opposed to its abolition. Sir John Newport, too, had warned the House that such a measure would exasperate Ireland. It was an error to suppose that any undue influence was exercised by subordinate officers. He referred to the distribution of duties among the members of the government and the privy council, by various statutes, all of which it would be necessary to remodel; and pointed out the great practical inconveniences in civil and criminal matters which the Irish people would sustain from a general change in all official functions, and in the modes of access to official information and assistance. The case of Scotland, he said, was not at all in point; the state of society there was wholly different from the state of society in Ireland, where there was not the same habit of obedience to the law, and where the immediate presence of a local executive was therefore required for the sake of the public peace.

Lord J. RUSSELL doubted the usefulness of the office, but was aware of the difficulties attending the abolition of it; but he thought those difficulties might be overcome. Though favourable to the abolition of the office, he thought it a matter for the consideration of the executive rather than of the House, and he would not, on that ground, support the motion.

Mr SHAW would rather not express a positive opinion; but he perceived in Ireland a growing dislike to the office.

Captain LAYARD thought that the abolition would increase absenteeism and want of employment.

Mr BELLEW supported the motion; and laughed at Lord John Russell for being under the influence which has so strong an effect upon every person who has been, or expects to be, in office.

Sir R. PEEL said that Mr Hume's motion ought not to be supported by any honourable member unless he were prepared for an immediate abolition of the office, for its authority would be paralysed if such a vote were carried. Though he was not prepared to say that the office should be permanently maintained, yet he saw great difficulty in transferring its duties to a second home secretary in England, to transact the affairs of Ireland. The two home secretaries would be likely to come into frequent collision. Besides all the inconvenience attending the abolition of the office, it would almost give a claim for compensation to the tradesmen of Dublin. The feeling of the Irish people ought to be almost universally in favour of such a measure before the House could be called upon to cope with its difficulties and disadvantages.

Mr DILLON BROWNE opposed the motion, which he characterised as an attempt made to deprive Ireland of the remnant of her national dignity, because England was compelled to subscribe to its maintenance in a small fractional proportion.

Mr HUME withdrew his motion.

CHIEF JUSTICE PENNEFATHER.

Mr BUTLER moved for a copy of an opinion and advice given by Mr Pennefather, the present chief justice of the court of Queen's bench in Ireland, on the 28th of February, 1825, in a case of toll—namely "Pembroke v. Kingsmill," the original of which is in possession of the present mayor and corporation of the city of Kilkenny. The advice was to the effect that the corporation should send a person to search the record offices in the tower and at Birmingham for a charter of James II., so as to enable him to swear that he looked for and could not find it, and that care should be taken to keep the documents out of his way while searching. Part of it ran as follows:—

"I advise that a person should be produced to prove that he has made search amongst the corporation papers, the records at the rolls or auditor-general's office, and in the Birmingham tower, for any anterior patent, and that none such has been found. Good care should be taken to employ some one in this search who has never heard of the charter of James II., and wherever he goes to search, that charter should be kept out of his way, for it would greatly embarrass the case, and, in fact, falsify the plea, which all state that since the charter of James I., the corporation have held under it; and, considering how the charter of James II. has been repudiated, it would not be safe or easy for the corporation to plead they ever accepted or held under it."

"It often happens that persons best acquainted with corporation usages and rights, are members of the corporation; to render them competent witnesses they must first be disfranchised. I think, however, I should

be disinclined to call as a witness any one acquainted with the charter of James II., or who, at least, is aware, that it was ever acted upon."

And to this was attached the name of "Edward Pennefather."

Lord ELIOT said that the document moved for was a private opinion given by a counsel to his clients, and could not, therefore, be produced. There was no reason to doubt the accuracy of the opinion as quoted, but the letter only referred to a charter of James II., which was invalid, and which could only tend to embarrass a case which turned altogether upon anterior charters, which had not been repudiated. He would leave it to his honourable friend Mr Shaw to enter more at length into the case, confining himself to bearing testimony to the unimpeachable honour and integrity of the lord chief justice.

Mr F. SHAW entered into a defence of the lord chief justice, treating the motion as a party one, to serve ulterior purposes connected with the Irish trials, and asserting, on the authority of a letter from the chief justice, that it was so considered by him, as it was but one of a series of annoyances and threats, to which he had been exposed since the trials for conspiracy.

Dr BOWRING, Mr M. O'CONNELL, Mr BLEWITT, and Mr M. J. O'CONNELL, adverted in terms of strong censure on the opinion given. Mr DARBY and Mr FRENCH expressed themselves satisfied with the explanation given by Lord Eliot and Mr Shaw.

The motion was then negatived without a division.

Friday, May 10th.

THE FACTORIES BILL.

On the order of the day being read for the third reading of the Factories bill, a large number of petitions for and against the ten hours was presented.

Lord ASHLEY then rose and said, that the government, by contravening the former decisions of the House in favour of a ten hours' limitation, had invited—nay, provoked, the revival of this debate. He disclaimed all intention to disparage the master manufacturers as a class; nor, because he attacked a particular evil, was he to be deemed the enemy of the factory system in general. After much inquiry, he could discover only four arguments against his own view. The first was, that the production of manufactures would be diminished in proportion with the time of labour. But the diminution in the production would be by no means in the same ratio as the diminution of the working hours; for on a deduction of one-sixth of the time, the diminution of production would really not be more than one-tenth or one-twelfth. The people's physical condition would be so much improved that they would do as much in 10½ hours then, as they do now in 12. The second argument against him was, that there would be a proportionate reduction in the value of the fixed capital employed in the mills. There would, undoubtedly, be a reduction in that value; but then there would be circumstances of compensation, in the saving of coal, oil, tallow, gas, wear and tear, and other expensive items. The third argument was the apprehended reduction of wages; and much was said about the folly of expecting twelve hours' wages for ten hours' work. But, for the most part, the earnings of the people were measured, not by the hour, but by the piece; and the fall of wages would not, therefore, bear a precise proportion to the working time; but a fall of wages they were prepared and willing to meet, for the sake of the moral advantages and domestic comforts which the change would secure them. The fourth argument was founded upon the impracticability of effecting a compensating rise in prices. He contended that the savings on the fixed capital, and on the wages, would go so far toward compensating the capitalist, that he could afford to sell the manufactured article at a price very little exceeding the rate at which the foreigner would sell it. The working hours had been restricted some years ago, and it had then been prophesied that there would be a diminished produce, but that prophecy had not been borne out by the fact; on the contrary, the produce had been greater in 1820, 1821, and 1822, the three years following the restriction, than in 1817, 1818, and 1819, the three years preceding it. On the point of wages, too, experience was favourable to his argument, for there had been no reduction of wages in the three years following the restriction; and the number of mills in employ had actually increased. Indeed, when so many additional mills were built, and so much additional capital was poured into the trade, the inference was a pretty strong one that the profits could not be so very low as to be incapable of affording this little reduction of time. The whole subject was contained in an extract from a private communication by a large proprietor of mills, dated in March, 1844. He said:—

"When we see around us men of all trades and professions going into the cotton trade, some with little capital, others with less knowledge or experience of the business—when we see gentlemen, brokers, merchants, doctors, lawyers, drapers, tailors, &c., leaving their respective professions and trades, and see them building mills in almost every town in Lancashire—when we see capital thus finding its way into the spinning and manufacturing business, surely the profits cannot be so small that a little reduction of the hours of labour to suffering thousands is impracticable."

Mr Senior, indeed, had contended that the whole of the master's profit lay in the last two hours; but to this opinion he would oppose that of several practical men, from whose information he made some quotations. These gentlemen affirmed that, on the contrary, the work of the two last hours was so inferior to the work of the earlier hours, as to make it a matter of no difficulty to pronounce, from the

mere inspection of a piece of work, at what period of the day it had been executed. If the former reduction from sixteen hours to twelve had produced nothing but good, would the now proposed reduction from twelve hours to ten produce nothing but evil? Your own inspectors assured you, that without such a reduction no social or moral improvement could be effected, and clouds of witnesses of every profession and persuasion had confirmed that opinion; yet the House had been called on to rescind their votes, not upon new information, but in order to save the government, who were pledged to resign if this measure were carried. He did not think that ministers had a right to place their friends in such a situation. At this rate great principles were to be tried, not by their merits, but by the tyranny or the fancy of ministers. It was probable, indeed, that the government would succeed on this particular occasion; but to make their success a permanent one, they must overcome both the sense of suffering and the sympathy of mankind. He concluded by moving a clause, restricting the hours of labour to eleven hours from October next, and to ten from October, 1847.

Sir JAMES GRAHAM opposed Lord Ashley with pain, and disclaimed all tyrannical disposition in the government: the tyranny rather would be if they were compelled to conduct affairs in circumstances which they thought unsafe. He then referred to the consequences that would follow the carrying of Lord Ashley's proposition:—

I must say, with perfect submission, and perfect frankness, that I leave this case to the decision of the House, but with equal firmness and with equal frankness, I am bound to state, that if the decision of the House should be that the proposition of the noble lord should prevail, it will be my duty to seek a private station, hoping that the decision of the House may be conducive to the welfare of the country; and, as the noble lord has favoured us with a quotation, I may give one also. The noble lord talked of the toil and trouble which he had undergone in bringing forward this subject. I admit it. I also have endured something:—

"—nil dulcius est, bene quam munita tenere

Edita doctrina sapientum templa serena;

Despicere unde queas alios, passimque videre

Errare, atque viam palanteis querere vias."

[cheers]. From that private station I may be able to say that I have acted with the best of my ability to obtain what I believed to be indispensable for the good of the country, and shall see errors committed by the House from which I had carefully abstained.

The government were taunted with departing from principle; it was true; in their anxiety to provide a remedy, they had trespassed on principle, and had gone as far as they dared. Lord Ashley talked lightly of a "little reduction," as if that could be "little" which would reduce the labour of every operative twelve hours in every week, and strike off six weeks in every year from the productive industry of the country. He was glad, however, that the noble lord, instead of resting exclusively on moral grounds, as at first, had now descended to those commercial considerations which were the most fitting for the treatment of the question. Cheapness was the prime element in successful production; the price in the foreign market must rule the home; and the necessary consequent increase both in foreign and home manufacturing productive power (statistics of which he adduced), led inevitably to cheaper production and increased competition. He then cited facts proving the activity of foreign rivals:—

He found that in 1827 the cotton manufacturers in the United States consumed 103,000 bales of cotton, while in 1843 they consumed 325,000 bales, being an increase of 222,000 bales, or upwards of 200 per cent., while he was assured that the American manufacturers expected that the consumption for the present year would not be less than 400,000 bales. He found also that the consumption of raw cotton by the manufacturers of France in 1833, was 276,000 bales, while in 1843 it was 430,000 bales, being an increase of 154,000 bales in twelve years, or 131 per cent. He also found that in the same period, the average consumption of raw cotton, by the manufacturers in the other parts of the continent, had increased 150,000 bales. Mr Horner, the factory inspector, had lately had some conversation with a gentleman who was the owner of two cotton mills in St Gall, and he told him that there were 125 cotton mills in Switzerland, the chief of which were situated in Zurich, and that they were all moved by water power. He need hardly tell the House that this was the cheapest of all modes of working cotton mills, and that, therefore, in this respect, the Swiss manufacturers had a great advantage over the British manufacturer. These two mills in St Gall each worked 15,000 spindles, while several of them in Zurich worked 30,000 spindles, spinning yarn of qualities between No. 4 and No. 200, a wider range than was worked in any mill in Great Britain. There was, too, the hours the cotton mills worked in Switzerland; he found that they were limited by law to work but fourteen hours a day. That was two hours a day more than the mills could be worked in this country, and four hours a day more than was proposed by the noble lord. As, however, there were no inspectors of factories in Switzerland, or other means to insure the law being enforced, it was often evaded. The workpeople proceeded to the mills at five o'clock in the morning, and remained to twelve o'clock, that was seven hours; the workpeople taking their breakfast in the mill, which continued running all the time. A gentleman connected with an extensive exporting house in Manchester, had stated that the fall in the price of all cotton goods in several foreign markets, in consequence of the competition with the American manufacturers, was most serious, and that in some articles they had completely driven the English exporter out of the market. The same gentleman informed Mr Horner that he had also a mill on the confines of Austria, about twenty English miles from Vienna, working 30,000 spindles, spinning yarn of the qualities between No. 10 and No. 180. The time of working the cotton mills in Austria was fourteen hours a day, but as there was no surveillance with respect to them, the duration of work often extended to fifteen or sixteen hours a day.

Refusing to enter on the corn law question, as connected with the present one, he intimated that the *onus* lay on Lord Ashley to prove that the present arrangement of the hours of labour in this country was morally wrong, and could not therefore be politically right. The reduction of wages involved in the diminution of the hours of labour would be confiscation without compensation—a subtraction of the only capital possessed by the labourer to the extent of one-sixth—which might involve in it wide-spread barbarism and the degradation of society; and those who advocated the ten hours were responsible before God and man for the consequences of a measure the true nature of which had not yet been fairly placed before the working classes. Even Mr Kenworthy, the great authority of Lord Ashley, had admitted that the reduction to the ten hours would involve a loss of very nearly ten per cent. on the capital employed; and this, confirmed as it was by accurate calculation, showed the danger to which we might be exposed from foreign competition. Lord John Russell, who was now friendly to the limitation, had, in 1839, denounced it as inhuman and cruel; and, in 1842, alluding to what he termed the "theatrical" interviews of the ten-hours agitators with members of the government, had complimented Sir Robert Peel for his wisdom and caution in resisting a proposition which would cut to the roots our commercial prosperity. The noble lord had changed, but he had not; remaining firm to his conviction of the impolicy and danger of the ten hours, he never gave a vote with more satisfaction than in resisting it.

Lord Howick considered it a dangerous straining of the deliberative powers of the House, for the government to stake their ministerial existence against a proposition of this kind. Sir Robert Peel had opposed the repeal of the Test and Corporation acts; yet, when decided against him by the House, instead of resigning, he was a member of the government which carried it. He admitted that the adoption of the ten hours would compel us to give a larger amount of our own industry for the products of other countries; but this would fall, not on the workmen or the manufacturers, but on the community at large. But the ruin of our manufacturers from foreign competition was a visionary fear; the reduction of our productive industry should be met by that freedom of exchange which would enable us to trade with other countries on natural principles, while the rapid improvement in our machinery would enable us to maintain our rivalry with foreign manufacturers. Were they to persist in maintaining a system which overtaxed the powers of women and children, when they could compensate any reduction in our productive industry, or in wages, by lowering our import duties?

Mr LINDSELL thought that the government, by not acting with their usual prudence and foresight, had exposed themselves to much public obloquy. Many members had voted with Lord Ashley without due reflection on the subject, and had been unwarily committed to a vote, as he had been, on the ten hours; but as he could not believe that the government could have any other motive than care for the public interest in resisting the limitation to ten hours, he would now give them his support.

Mr BERNAL retorted the allegation that the advocates of the ten hours were pandering to the passions of the people. The operatives at Manchester, Bradford, and Halifax, had openly responded to the question whether or not they were willing to submit to a reduction of wages; and, at this time of day, were they to be told that the intelligent workmen of this country could not form sound opinions on what concerned their own interest?

Was it denied that the operatives of the country had heard the case stated to them as to the possible reduction of wages? "Sir," said the honourable gentleman (who spoke with great energy and emphasis), "they have [hear, hear]. For myself, I can say that I put repeated, and searching, and sifting questions to those who called upon me as the committee of the operatives, as to whether the point had been considered by them. They declared it had. When I referred to the probable proportions of reduction in wages, they mentioned one-eighth as what they thought of. I said distinctly many members would not like to consent to an abatement of their wages. They said strongly, 'What we look to is the increase of our domestic comforts; we look to domestic thrift and economy' [hear, hear]. 'You must be aware,' they explained, that when families are separated in different departments of factories, considerable waste in their total consumption is occasioned by the consequent subdivision into different meals' [hear, hear]. 'Then again,' they added, 'there are certain domestic avocations, perhaps appearing insignificant enough to wealthier classes, but involving all to the poor in the way of domestic comfort—no unimportant incidents in their short and simple annals, such as mending of clothes, and all the little attentions to the economy of home—these things cannot be carefully regarded when a whole family are engaged in the various departments of the factory' [hear, hear].

The House was not the proper arena for the discussion of mere questions of political economy; nor could we deal with masses of men as with chessmen.

You cannot sit down at a table and square down human nature to the rigid regularity of your abstract theories [hear]. It is impossible [cheers]! And this—forgive me—this is the error that pervades all the ideas of these bigoted professors of political economy [loud cheers]. Yes! bigoted is my word! For, though many of you (continued the hon. member, turning himself round to the knot of liberal economists who sat behind him)—though many of you are men of kind feelings and humane intentions—upon your theories you are the most intolerant and unbending set of men I ever knew of [loud cheers and laughter]. The rigour and the harshness of your political economy surpasses anything I have elsewhere seen [hear, hear]. Now, don't take it to yourselves personally (said the hon. member, good humouredly); I know you've good feelings; but don't accuse us of entire ignorance; and don't arrogate to yourselves entire omniscience on these questions [hear]. Knowledge and wisdom upon this subject, as on all others, are

not monopolised by yourselves [hear, hear]. And I regret to find this made too much a party and political question [hear, hear]. We should take higher and better ground upon it [cheers]. Let us not have the hateful language of cant—the affected love of morality, or the unnecessary assumption of religious feeling—let the question be tried by our common feelings. [Some member, we believe Mr Roebuck, here said, "Common sense!" Yes; I was about to add, our common sense; for does the hon. gentleman imagine he has an exclusive diploma for common sense ["Hear, hear," and a laugh]? Is he so regular a practitioner of that valuable virtue that he allows no other to exercise the attribute [laughter and "Hear, hear"]? Will he not permit his opponents to claim some portion of it [hear, hear]? I repeat, let the question be decided upon common feelings and common sense [cheers].

If foreign competition were really so frightful, why not go backwards to the old state of the law, and permit our factories to be worked any amount of hours whatever? All the evidence proved the injurious consequences of twelve hours' labour on the moral and physical well-being of the operatives, especially the females and young persons; and he hoped Lord Ashley would never abandon the question until it was carried.

Mr GALLY KNIGHT had studied the subject with great anxiety for the welfare of the working classes, and having had time to get sober on the subject, he had come to the conclusion that the adoption of Lord Ashley's proposition would be injurious to their true interests.

Mr CHARLES BULLER thought that Mr Gally Knight was a remarkable instance of the facility with which men forgot recent events, for in his present sobriety he had forgotten his three votes in favour of the ten hours.

Now, he (Mr C. Buller) must say, that such habitual, continued intoxication, going on through three votes and a week's time, he had never heard avowed in that house [laughter]. Considering how fully the arguments on his present side of the question had been gone into, and how totally his mind had been shut to them in his former state, his hon. friend, he (Mr C. Buller) must say, must have been very bad indeed [cheers].

He then went at some length into the arguments urged by previous speakers, in support of Lord Ashley's measure. The present proposition of Lord Ashley was for an experimental trial of eleven hours; and if that worked badly, how easy would it be to retrace their steps! The working classes, who desired the present change, and who must bear its weight, would be the loudest and the earliest in asking them to remove the restriction. They were frightened by those who upheld the corn laws with the fear of foreign competition; and even advocates of universal suffrage implied that the working classes, on a question affecting their own interests, were incapable of judging for themselves. Danger was alleged from interference; but was there no danger in leaving the working classes to believe that parliament would do nothing for them, and that it left them without protection and to their own resources?

Mr ROEBUCK protested against the opposite mistake of telling the people that parliament could do everything for them. To regulate wages by law was what parliament could not do.

The noble lord the member for Sunderland (Lord Howick) talked of a new era of enlightened, of bold legislation; but he (Mr Roebuck) would suggest to him to add, as the conclusion of the sentence, the words "rash and needless legislation."

"Fools rush in ———"

(loud laughter and ironical cheering). "But," continued the hon. and learned member, addressing himself to the ministerial benches, "I will not finish the quotation" [laughter]. He wished to be informed what was the object of the noble lord's proposition. Let them understand its end. Having a clear perception of that, let them next consider upon what ground it was based. He challenged the noble lord to show in what respect the case of the manufacturing labourers was an exceptional one; so far from their being worse off than most other labourers, he believed their condition was better. Mr C. Buller twitted Mr Gally Knight with inconsistency—"those who live in glass houses should not throw stones." He did not wish to take the opinions of the working classes at second hand; he would rather that they had the opportunity of stating their own case by their own representatives. Lord Howick, in this question, had derived his knowledge from the *New Moral World*—he was but a humble plagiarist of Mr Owen. If there would be no rise in prices, were they prepared to encounter a fall in profit, on the bidding of men whose contempt for political economy was but the cover for their ignorance of it? The working classes did not contemplate a reduction in wages, which, when it occurred, would destroy all chance of being able to improve their moral condition. The nostrum of the ten hours was nothing but a mischievous quackery. What would they say to him, if he came down with a detail of the actual miseries endured by the people of Ireland, and made a proposition to deprive the landlords of their property, in order to alleviate their condition? That he was a madman or a knave. Lord Ashley had grossly exaggerated the evils of factory employment; the adoption of his proposition would establish a *minimum* of wages; and, in the deteriorated condition of a discontented people, they would learn too late how fatal was the interference which they had been induced to make on insufficient evidence.

Mr FERRAND had been informed by the working classes that they had a very indifferent opinion of Mr Roebuck, and looked upon him as one of their bitterest enemies. As the representative of hundreds of thousands of his humbler fellow-countrymen, he denounced the evils which they endured, and demanded a remedy for them, especially the contraction of their hours of labour. They were loyal and peaceable; but if they wished them to remain so, they must do them justice:—

Depend upon it, if you refuse this bill, they will eventually adopt the advice of the honourable member for Halifax—they will continue to agitate, and they will eventually refuse to work. What will be the consequence to yourselves? You have admitted that it is the trade of this country on which the prosperity of this country depends. Let the working classes refuse to work for one week, at four different periods of the year, and what will be the result?

Mr MUNTZ said that a strike for wages would have all the ill effects of a ten hours bill; and the working classes were determined to strike in order to obtain it. No doubt it was an interference with principle; but was there any "principle" connected with their legislation at all?

Since the last motion of the hon. and learned member for Bath, he had searched with great care, and he could not find any principle connected with any government for the last thirty years ["Hear, hear," and laughter]. The only principle he could find was legislative expediency. Every measure for the last twenty-five years, against the interests of the people, had been grounded upon the principle of expediency. They had no right to go against the people upon such a principle. Talk of philosophy—it was an idea [laughter]. Philosophy and philosophers! Their philosophy would be found when many other things would be found—when it was too late for use [loud laughter]. It was a mere question, whether they were right or he was right [laughter]. For his own part, he repudiated the doctrine of interference altogether; but these parties had given very good reason why they should have this interference.

He would like to see the experiment of the ten hours tried, and was willing to take his share of the responsibility; the fears as to our foreign trade were absurd, for it was worth very little.

Mr MARK PHILLIPS, connected as he had been with our commerce all his life, was surprised to hear such a statement uttered, though it was in keeping with other extravagant statements uttered in the House. They must not legislate on "chances;" if they lost their foreign trade for six months they would find out their mistake too late.

Great clamour now prevailed, one set of members calling for an adjournment of the debate, others insisting on a division. At last the adjournment was agreed to.

Monday, May 13th.

THE FACTORIES BILL.

The adjourned debate on the Factories bill was resumed by

Mr MONCKTON MILNES, who argued that the long hour factory system was the white slavery of this country, and that if it cost us as much to get rid of this opprobrium as it did to emancipate the black population of our colonies, we should be prepared to meet it. He looked upon this question, and the confusion of parties which it had produced, as the harbinger of better things for the working classes, and the result of which would lead them to repose confidence in the large body of men who, in that House, desired their welfare.

Mr WARD replied, with point, to the imputations and taunts about "theorists," "political economists," "long chimnies," and so forth, with which the advocates of the "ten hours" interlarded their speeches. Even such a man as Mr Muntz talked lightly of the value of our foreign trade; and Mr Gally Knight, who belonged to a class the value of whose landed property "long chimnies" had doubled, and who had given three votes on the "ten hours" before he began to reflect on the subject, had at last been taught reflection by the very political economy he affected to despise. It was easy to get up a case, supported by an apparent show of statistical authority.

He had found a case got up against the trade of the tailors quite as strong as that which the noble lord had represented to that house, and which was got up on the evidence of Mons. Palissier, who professed that a tailor was a sort of living concentration of every conceivable disease—pulmonary phthisis, hydrothorax, and hæmoptosis, emaciation of the lower limbs, peculiar walk, eyes bad, breathing bad, and subject to neuralgia and sciatica; and these diseases, which shortened life, were all said to be the consequence of their trade [hear, hear, and laughter]. The tailors, when they heard this, were quite indignant [laughter], and every opinion of Monsieur Palissier's was disproved before a committee of the House by a Mr Brownlow, who said they were a remarkably active, vigorous body of men, fond of cricket, racing, and football, and furnished the best recruits to the guards; and that the only evils which belonged to the trade were connected with intemperance and bad ventilation [hear, hear]. Then there was the report of Mr Thackrah on 260 trades, and he found out that half of the population in the kingdom were in a bad state of health; in fact, he discovered that nobody was in full health—some lived too high, others too low—the mind wanted as much regulation as the body—idleness was as fatal as overwork—and, in fact, nobody was safe but butchers and tallow-melters [laughter]; and a man might die, with Mr Thackrah's book in his hand, before he could decide how he ought to live [renewed laughter].

As the factory labourer had been shown to be better rather than worse off than other portions of the working community, they had no pretence for interference. They had been told by Mr CHARLES BULLER that it would be easy to retrace their steps if necessary. But all experience showed that a commercial market once lost was never regained. Lord Ashley boasted of having "lighted a candle in England," which was too true; but he trusted there was a power in that house capable of extinguishing it. The government had been taught a lesson; their firmness in resisting the unlucky decisions of the House had inspired him with greater confidence in them than he could have supposed; he trusted that those members who felt desirous of recanting would overcome their natural reluctance in so doing; and, with free trade, he felt assured that the demand for the "ten hours" would disappear.

Mr M'GRATHY considered that the government

measure and the government arguments were wholly at variance; non-interference, rather than a twelve-hours bill, should be the result. He had himself, during the Easter recess, in company with Mr Horner, endeavoured to make himself personally acquainted with the feelings of the operatives in the manufacturing districts; and he read replies to various questions, from which it appeared that the operatives regarded higher wages for long hours as going rather to the "doctor," than into their own pockets; and that they were ready to submit to a reduction in wages, for the sake of time for healthy recreation and moral improvement.

Mr MANNERS SUTTON (under-secretary in the home department) was in a position to state that, out of 130 operatives questioned by Mr Horner, in the presence of Mr McGeachy, no less than seventy declared that their wages would not bear any reduction. The adoption of the "ten hours" would strike off one-twelfth from our export trade; and taking the numbers actually employed in all the factories which are subjected to the Factory act, at 240,000, and their average individual wages at 10s. weekly, the total annual sum would be six millions, from which they proposed to strike off £867,000. The state of Paisley in 1842 would enable them to understand what the effect of this would be on every one of our interests—the shopkeeping, banking, coal trade, carrying trade, &c., and from thence on their various ramifications throughout the country.

Mr HAWES admitted that commercial profit was at a minimum; but we had now twelve years' experience of interference with factory labour, and during that time our foreign commerce had increased rather than diminished. He did not consider that the factory labourer was in such a state as to justify their interference on that sole ground; but the government had raised the question of restricting adult labour; and looking upon the "ten hours" as "part and parcel" of a series of measures for the benefit of the labouring population, and as tending to compel the adoption of free trade, he supported it.

Lord POLLINGTON was one of the members who had availed himself of the Easter recess to improve his knowledge, and had been confirmed thereby in his conviction, that the first duty of the House was to protect the weak and helpless. Perish the corn laws, if they rested on so weak a basis as the over-toll of the operatives.

Mr LABOUCHERE, looking to the immediate results on the wages of the labouring population, and on our trade, by the adoption of the "ten hours," dared not, with all his desire to see the corn laws put on a proper footing, support the one as a means to the other. Did those who talked of easily retracing their steps if the experiment failed, know what, in this case, failure meant? It was the loss irrecoverably of their foreign commerce, and the demoralisation of their population. The maxim of an honest member should be, for the many, but not always with the many; and looking to the effect of this proposition on the social condition of this country, he thought that the House would ultimately raise itself in the estimation of the working classes, by refusing its sanction to the motion.

Mr STUART WORTLEY, though reluctant to oppose a government in which he had confidence, felt strongly the necessity of interference, for the sake of the physical welfare and moral improvement of the population, and was not apprehensive that the adoption of the "ten hours" would affect wages to the extent alleged.

Mr BRIGHT vindicated Mr Henry Ashworth, of Bolton, from the attacks contained in a document issued by the "ten hour" delegates, which purported to be a reply to the statement of facts put forth by the master manufacturers, and also went minutely into detail, in order to show that Lord Ashley had been led into gross exaggeration with respect to the nature and extent of the toil of the spinner. In reference to the feeling of the operatives on the subject of ten hours' labour, he related the following facts:—

On Saturday, the 27th of April, 1844, a master manufacturer received a deputation on the ten hours bill. He inquired if they really wanted to work only ten hours a day? They were some time before any one answered. At length one of them said, "he should." The manufacturer said, "Well, you have as good a pair of mules as any in my mill: you are at liberty to work only ten hours a day, and I promise that you shall enjoy that liberty for twelve months—I will neither discharge nor disturb you." He afterwards informed them that "if the other spinners in the same room desired it also, they should only work ten hours a day." He again added, "that should the whole of the operatives of the mill request it, the mill should work only ten hours a day;" and he also gave them permission to return an answer at any convenient time; but as yet he has not heard more on the subject. This conversation took place on the 27th of April; but up to the middle of last week, which was the time he had received the last accounts, there was no indication on the part of the workmen that they were anxious to work only for ten hours. Another case he had to mention was that of a large manufacturer not far from Bury. That person thought fit to try how far the ten hours would be agreeable to his hands. He, therefore, regularly stopped the engine at the end of ten hours. What was the result? The hands in his employment actually told him they would turn out, unless the engine worked twelve hours, as it had done before [hear, hear, hear].

Some of the chief informants of Lord Ashley were men worthless in character, and had been convicted of breaches of the law, especially one Mark Crabtree, who was a "short time" delegate, and a haunter of the lobby of the House, and who had been in an awkward position at Aylesbury about a silver spoon and other articles. He counseled Lord Ashley to get rid of such advisers and guides; and warned the House that the direct road to diminution of toil was,

by first enlarging the field of subsistence through the operation of free trade.

Lord ASHLEY briefly explained that, with reference to a particular statement which he had made, Mr Bright had fallen into error, and then indignantly asked who was the gross exaggerator?

Mr SHAW, seeing that the question between "twelve" and "ten" hours was one, not of principle, but of degree, and not being affected by the ingenious calculations which had been adduced by Sir Robert Peel and Sir James Graham, felt bound to maintain his own consistency, even in the face of the alleged hazard of breaking up the Government.

Mr CHARLES WOOD argued that the striking off of one-sixth from our productive industry, by the adoption of the "ten hours," would fall inevitably on consumption through wages, aggravate that moral condition which they wished to amend, affect capital as well as labour, by diminishing profit; and, amongst other sufferers, reach the hand-loom weavers, whose state had already been so long and so deplorably low.

Mr B. COCHRANE supported the "ten hours," and thought that the existence of the Government was not necessarily dependent on their defeat on this question.

Sir ROBERT PEEL remarked that if the government were wrong in proposing a limitation to twelve hours, that was no justification for those who pushed it further. Taking the number of persons employed in the factories at 450,000 (estimated by the horse power of the machinery), and their wages at an average of ten shillings each, that would give a weekly sum of £225,000 paid in wages; and from this, the adoption of the "ten hours" would strike off £36,000 per week. That was an enormous experiment; and they must bear in mind that, in diminishing the labour of a factory operative, they were not dealing with individuals working with such a simple power as a spade, but were controlling a wonderful machine, capable of producing enormous quantities. The proposition would be, in fact, a tax upon the income of the working man to the extent of 16 per cent.; and not only so, but they would lay such a tax on machinery as the hand-loom weavers, in their short-sighted desire to maintain their unequal and hopeless competition with the power loom, had asked to be laid on, in order to discourage factory labour. It was alleged that increased activity and energy would produce as much out of "ten" as at present out of "twelve" hours. He had been furnished with a calculation from a mill, which, in 1842, had been compelled by accidental circumstances to work, for five weeks, for "ten" instead of "twelve" hours. The result showed that the actual produce fell below what, calculating from time, should have been the diminished product. This was decisive on the point. They were told that what was "morally wrong could not be politically right." What was the meaning of this? Who was to set up the standard in politics of that which constituted "moral wrong?" A despot might make that "politically right," which others considered "morally wrong." If "twelve" hours were wrong, and "ten" hours right, how would they meet the man who contended for "eight" hours?

He could not reconcile the notions of Lord Howick about our foreign trade with the commonly received doctrines of political economy. Exports were surely as important as imports; and the cheaper we produced the more able were we to command by our manufactures the produce of other countries. He was afraid of foreign competition. A long period of peace had ensued; and reading from a recent report by a Belgian gentleman, who showed that in the United States, France, Prussia, Austria, &c., the hours of labour varied from 74 to 84 up to 94 hours a week, while in England they were only 69, he warned the House against attempting their further reduction to 58. We were reviving in our commercial prosperity, but that very revival only showed the intensity of foreign competition, and the danger of interfering with our own more modified hours of labour. Strange doctrines were uttered in the course of the debate; Mr Munz, member for Birmingham, intimated that it would matter little whether or not we retained our foreign trade; and so experienced a man as Mr Bernal repudiated the principles of political economy in dealing with this question—that is, he repudiated principles of wisdom matured by experience. Depend upon it, other demands would press upon them if they yielded to what was supposed to be the popular will. The turn-out colliers had issued an address, in which they claimed, with much show of reason, four shillings for eight hours' work—and such would be the nature of the requests which would be pressed upon them. He called on them to aid the government in resisting the popular will, because it would not be for the popular interest; but if they did not, they must pursue their triumph under other auspices, and with guides who could see more clearly than they did their way in this matter. For himself, he was prepared to retire into a private station, rather than retain office for the purpose of carrying what he conceived would be so injurious to the welfare of the community.

Lord JOHN RUSSELL did not think it fit to mix up this great question with that of ministerial confidence. Were they to reject all useful reforms, lest it would affect the existence of the ministry of the day? By their "twelve" hours they refused to adopt the 84 or the 94 hours per week of other countries; and as Adam Smith had not pointed out in what lay the difference between twelve hours and ten, they were not to be taunted with flying in the face of the principles of political economy. He had changed his opinion on this question; but the question was, had he been actuated by an unworthy motive?—Only one member had so insinuated—Mr Roebuck—who, however, had taken himself out of

the sphere of our sublunary transactions, for, in quoting "fools rush in," he insinuated that he was the angel. Nor was the taunt of change very forcible, as coming from the ministerial benches; Sir Robert Peel, who had so recently laid down such clear principles on the currency, had, in early life, voted with his leaders against the doctrines he now advocated. The real question on the subject of the ten hours was, what was beneficial for the population? and looking to their congregation in masses, he warned the House that if they neglected them, they might one day awake from their pleasant dream, and find them menaced by multitudes disregarding all that they were accustomed to esteem as sacred. Looking to the moral condition, and desirous of affording them time for education and social improvement, he would cheerfully vote for Lord Ashley's motion.

Sir R. H. INGLES and Mr COLLETT added a few observations, amidst much uproar, the latter expressing his wish to see the amendment carried, for the purpose of getting rid of the bill altogether.

A division then took place, when there appeared
For Lord Ashley's motion 159
Against it 297

Majority against the ten hours' clause... 138

This announcement was received with much cheering and triumphant laughter on the ministerial benches. A second division afterwards took place on the question "that the bill do pass," when the numbers were—

For the motion 136
Against it 7

Majority 129

MISCELLANEOUS.

On Wednesday, only twenty-two members being present, no house was made.

SUGAR DUTIES.—Lord John RUSSELL announced, on Thursday, that when the question of the sugar duties should come before the House of Commons, he would move to fix the duty on all foreign sugars at 34s. per cwt.

THE DISSENTERS' CHAPELS BILL is to be taken into consideration on Friday.

A NEW WRIT was on Monday ordered for the borough of Launceston, vacant by Sir H. Hardinge's acceptance of the governor-generalship of India.

ART UNIONS.—On the same evening Mr WYSE presented two petitions on the present position of art unions; the one from the Royal Birmingham and Midland Counties Art Union, the other from several members of the Society of Birmingham Artists. Both petitions joined in the prayer that the House would give its sanction to any measure which should be brought forward to secure the continuance of these institutions on a legitimate and permanent basis. The honourable member then gave notice that, on Wednesday next (this evening), he would move for a select committee on the subject of the art unions.

COMPLETE SUFFRAGE.—On Monday evening, Mr Sharman Crawford presented petitions from the National Complete Suffrage Union, signed by the president, Mr J. Sturge, praying for manhood suffrage, vote by ballot, repeal of property qualification for members of parliament, equal electoral districts, payment of members, and annual parliaments; also a petition from a public meeting of the inhabitants of Liverpool, signed by the chairman, Lawrence Heyworth, praying for an extension of parliamentary suffrage, and such other provisions as may be necessary to secure a full, fair, and free representation of the people.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Thursday, May 9th.

DISSENTERS' CHAPELS BILL.—Upon the motion of the LORD CHANCELLOR the Dissenters' Chapels bill was read a third time, in spite of the energetic opposition of a small minority. The Bishop of EXETER, as on the previous stages of the bill, warmly combated the principle of adopting a use of thirty years as sufficient evidence of the doctrine intended to be propagated by the founder, and was supported by Lord Winchelsea, Lord Kenyon, Lord Mountcashel, and Lord Teynham; but upon a division the bill was read a third time by a large majority.

IMPORT DUTIES.—Lord MONTEAGLE gave notice, that on Monday the 20th instant he will move for a committee to consider the question of import duties.

Friday, May 10th.

DUTY ON WOOL.—The Duke of RICHMOND moved for returns respecting the importation of foreign wool; expressing his apprehension that the abolition of the duty would prove injurious to our Australian colonies, and his fear of it as another free-trade movement. The Earl of DALHOUSIE was prepared to prove that the abolition of the duties would be beneficial even to the wool-growers. The returns were ordered.

PUBLIC WORKS IN IRELAND.—Lord CLONCURRY moved for a select committee for the purpose of inquiring into the best mode of promoting public works in Ireland, with the view of finding employment for the people by promoting drainage, and encouraging the construction of railroads. The Duke of WELLINGTON was not disposed to agree to a larger grant than the £60,000 already voted annually, and part of which had already been advanced at the rate of £15,000 a quarter. He opposed the motion, which, after some discussion, shared in by the Marquis of Clanricarde, the Earl of Devon, and the Marquis of Normanby, was withdrawn.

Monday, May 13th.

CONSOLIDATION OF THE CRIMINAL LAW.

Lord BROUGHAM, in moving the second reading of his bill for the consolidation of the criminal laws, stated, at great length, the object he had in view, which is to digest and condense the enormous mass of our criminal statute law, reducing it to written principles and a distinct code, easily accessible, intelligible, and capable of being carried into execution with facility. With reference to the quantity, he gave the following information:—

I will show to your lordships the mass of those judicial decisions, that has been accumulating since the time—not when Lord Mansfield made use of that eloquent expression—but from the time only that Lord Mansfield left the bench, in 1806. I shall confine my retrospect to that period. There are 160 closely-printed bulky volumes of decisions, to which, if we add ten volumes of decisions at *nisi prius*, we shall have 170 of these thick volumes of printed books, containing the decisions only of the courts of common law, without a single tome being reckoned of the decisions of the courts of equity or of the courts of Ireland. I speak, then, of the three courts of common law in the hall near me, and of the decisions in those courts there are 170 volumes, or 150,000 pages of print, all of which it becomes and behoves the judges and practitioners in those courts to be acquainted and make themselves familiar with—if man can make himself familiar with such a mass as that which it is painful to mention and frightful to contemplate. I now hold in my hand a volume of 300 pages, closely printed—so closely, that I, at my time of life, cannot read it with my unassisted sight—and upon large pages, being about equal to the “Code Napoleon,” which contains the common law, as well as the statute law, of France. Your lordships, perhaps, will think that this volume, then, is a digest of the common law or of the statute law of this country; or perhaps you may think that it is a consolidation or combination of the combined common and statutory law. No; but, peradventure, your lordships may think that this volume is a digest or index of these 160 volumes of reports, with their 150,000 pages of print. No such thing. Peradventure, then, your lordships may think that it is a digest of the reports of the last three years of the present century. Not so. It is an index to the reports of cases in the courts of Westminster Hall for one year only—the year 1842. And the digest of the whole reports for the last ninety years—from 1752 to to last year—occupies four immense volumes, containing 8000 pages and upwards. And the mass of reports to which these massive volumes are but the digest and the index, it becomes a lawyer—I will not say a student, for a student cannot purchase them—but it becomes every lawyer, who practises, to buy, and make himself the holder of.

Then as to its accessibility:—

Can anything equal the absurdity of continuing your code of criminal law in your statutory or written law, and leaving out all that is contained in your common law—when you reflect, for one moment, what must be the language which the lawgiver holds upon this subject to those he calls upon to obey, under the severest penalties? He tells them—“Disobey at your peril; here is the law, written so plain that he who runs may read.” “But,” asks the subject, “is this all the law?” “Very far from it,” replies the legislator; “it is not above one-fourth or one-fifth of the law you have to obey; but where you are to find the rest is more than I can tell.” This is the language which the lawgiver holds:—“Obey me at your peril, but I cannot tell you what is the law—disobey me at your peril, but I cannot tell you what you are to obey.”

Nor are we better off, in many departments of criminal law, as to intelligibility:—

As to the written, the learned commissioners have collected no less than thirteen definitions of the crime of theft—a crime, be it remembered, for which about 12,000 persons are tried yearly—five of which definitions are totally diverse; and they are by judges as well as text writers. As to the general state of the law, there are now 1540 statutes in force, 658 of which are repealed or supposed to be repealed directly by parliament; 142 are repealed, or supposed to be repealed, by implication; 234 are, but most inaccurately, called obsolete, because in England there is no such thing as an obsolete statute. It has been laid down beyond contradiction that a statute cannot be obsolete.

He gave instances of the absurdity of many enactments that still remain on the statute book. The following is an example of the want of codification and proper arrangement:—

The 22nd George II. was for preventing executions, for repairing the locks in the Thames, for amending the laws regulating the assize of bread, for regulating the conduct of attorneys [a laugh], for allowing the people called quakers to affirm instead of swearing.

The LORD CHANCELLOR, in expressing his approbation of the general principles of the bill, recommended Lord Brougham to rest satisfied for the present with its second reading, letting it lie over till next session, and meantime the government would take the matter up in conjunction with him, and endeavour to devise the best means of obviating difficulties and removing objections. There were, however, a variety of dormant statutes, the repeal of which might be advantageously carried, pending the consideration of the greater measure.

Lord DENMAN and Lord CAMPBELL both expressed their approbation of the course suggested, and Lord BROUGHAM having expressed his assent, the bill was read a second time, and the House adjourned.

Postscript.

Wednesday, May 15th.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

COMPLETE SUFFRAGE.

Yesterday evening Mr SHARMAN CRAWFORD brought forward his motion for leave to bring in a bill to extend the parliamentary suffrage, and secure the representation of the people. The debate was short, no one deigning to reply to the arguments of the hon. member for Rochdale, so that the motion was got rid of in very quick time. Mr Crawford's speech was

short, but to the point. A government, he said, to be representative, must be removable at the pleasure of the people; otherwise, it was a despotism. Every man, therefore, ought to have a share in the choice of the government under which he was to live, subject to these limitations—first, that the voter should have been resident for a certain time in the district for which he was to be registered, and that none should be admitted who were under sentence for crime, or who were of unsound mind; secondly, the districts ought to be equalised with reference to the numbers of their inhabitants; and, thirdly, the mode of voting ought to be by ballot. These were the three great principles of the bill he would propose. The application of them was necessary for the sake of the working classes, who, under the present system of government, were not sufficiently protected. The late proceeding on the factory question was a proof of this—a proof that the monied section of the House was too much for the working section. The people demanded other things, particularly annual election, and the abolition of the qualification law; but these formed no part of his present bill.

Dr BOWRING seconded the motion. He believed that, though public opinion might sometimes be wrong, the creation of a strong popular power would work great improvements in legislation.

These speeches received no answer, and the House divided—

For allowing the introduction of the bill 31

Against it 97

Majority against it — 66

The following are the names of the minority of 31:—

Aglionby, Henry A.	AYES.	M'Taggart, Sir John
Archbold, Robert		Murray, Alexander (Kirkcudb.)
Barnard, Edward George		O'Connell, Mr J. (Kerry)
Bright, John		Pattison, James
Brotherton, Joseph		Pechell, Captain
Deenistoun, John		Plumridge, Captain
Duncan, George		Scholefield, Joshua
Duncombe, Thomas (Finsbury)		Seale, Sir John Henry
Ewart, William		Strickland, Sir George
Fielden, John (Oldham)		Trelawny, John Salusbury
Gibson, Thomas Milner		Villiers, Hon. Charles
Gisborne, Thomas		Warburton, Henry
Hatton, Captain Villiers		Ward, Henry George
Heron, Sir Robert		Wawn, John Twizell
Hill, Lord Marcus		Williams, William (Coventry)
Johnson, General (Oldham)		

Tellers for the ayes, Mr Sharmar Crawford and Dr Bowring.

COMPENSATION TO CHANCERY CLERKS.—The next business was a motion by Mr WATSON, who brought under the consideration of the House the nature of the recent act, 5 and 6 Vict., c. 103, awarding compensation to the six clerks in Chancery, whose offices were abolished. These compensations had been valued by a competent authority, and it was calculated that they would cause a charge upon the suitors in the Court of Chancery of one million of money. The masters in Chancery, who had only to tax six-and-eightpences for five or six hours in the day, received a salary almost equal to the speaker of the House of Commons. Why, the thing was almost too ridiculous to be treated seriously. He move for a select committee to inquire into all the circumstances attending the passing of the compensation act, and into the nature, duties, and emoluments of the officers, and the propriety of continuing their compensation. The new Solicitor-general, Mr Thesiger, defended the act, mainly on the ground of “vested interest;” and after a debate, in which Mr Jervis, Sir James Graham, Mr Williams, Mr Charles Buller, and Mr Warburton took part, the motion of Mr Watson was rejected, on a division, by 84 to 68.

THE HOUSE OF LORDS was principally occupied last night in the discussion of a motion, by the Marquis of Normanby, for certain papers which, it was supposed, would illustrate what is termed the “spy system” in Ireland, by explaining the proceedings in the case of two ballad singers accused of singing and vending seditious songs. The motion, after a somewhat irregular conversation, was agreed to.

THE MEMBERS FOR EDINBURGH AND THE ANTI-CORN-LAW ASSOCIATION.—In consequence of the resolution passed by the friends of free-trade in Edinburgh, in reference to their representatives, the two members, Messrs Macaulay and Craig, wrote letters to their constituents in reply. The letter of Mr Macaulay was very elaborate, and has gained the commendation of the *Morning Chronicle*, which thinks that the League ought not to adopt the “no surrender” cry, except at a time of great enthusiasm, or on the eve of triumph. The Edinburgh electors, however, think otherwise, and under the able leadership of Mr D. M'Laren, are teaching their members a salutary lesson. At a meeting of the Anti-corn-law Association on Thursday night, the following resolution was passed:—

“That, having heard read the letters from the city members, resolved that, while there is much in Mr Macaulay's letter of which the association disapprove, they desire to consider both communications as conveying the impression that our representatives are now convinced of the propriety of supporting the total and immediate repeal of the corn laws, as opposed to any duty whatever, in terms of the second resolution passed on the 22nd April; direct this resolution to be communicated to them by the sub-committee; and, in the meantime, delay all further proceedings until the sub-committee shall think fit to call another meeting of the association.”

THE DIVISIONS ON THE FACTORIES BILLS.—Lord Ashley's proposition was sustained in a division on the 18th of March, by 179 to 170, giving a majority of 9 in a House comprising, tellers included, 353 members. On the 22nd of the same month, that decision was confirmed by 186 to 183, a majority of 3, when 373 members voted. The clause having a similar object, negatived on Monday last by 297 to 159, was decided by an assemblage of 460 members. In the divisions of March 18, or on that of March 22, Lord

Ashley was supported by 88 members, whose aid was withheld on Monday last, May 13. Of these 15 members voted with the noble lord in the first instance. On Monday night the ministry were supported by 197 members, who had not registered their votes on either of the previous occasions.

SOUTH LANCASHIRE ELECTION.—The correspondent of the *Chronicle* thus reports progress:—“The canvass for the free trade candidate goes on gloriously. The reports from all parts of the southern division of the county speak in the most glowing terms of success. In the manufacturing towns, especially Manchester, Bolton, Oldham, Bury, Rochdale, Ashton, and Warrington, and also in Liverpool, according to the correspondence of the committee, there are many persons who at the last election supported the conservatives, who have expressed their determination to vote for free trade. Mr Brown, the free trade candidate, addresses his committee to-morrow, at Liverpool, and in the evening a great meeting is to be held in the Free Trade hall, Manchester, at which Mr Cobden will be present, and Mr Robert Hyde Greig. On Wednesday Mr Brown commences his canvass personally, and will visit Manchester, Bolton, Ashton, and Oldham on Thursday; and on Friday he is expected to be at Ormskirk and the neighbouring towns. The sheriff's proclamation was issued on Monday morning, fixing the nomination for Friday, the 24th instant, at the Horse and Jockey, Newton-in-the-Willows, and the polling, it is presumed, will take place on Whit Monday and Tuesday.”

ARRIVAL OF D. O'CONNELL, M.P.—Mr O'Connell, M.P., arrived yesterday afternoon at Euston square terminus of the London and Birmingham railway, by the six o'clock train from Liverpool.

REPEAL ASSOCIATION.—The usual weekly meeting was held at the Conciliation hall, on Monday—Mr R. A. Fitzgerald, ex-J.P., in the chair. Mr O'Neill Daunt gave notice of a motion, to the effect that the Association were of opinion that the proposed abolition of the ancient office of lord-lieutenant of Ireland—an office which has been in existence for six centuries—is felt to be degrading and insulting, and as having also a tendency to increase the drain of money from this country, and weaken the attachment of the people to British connexion. Mr O'Connell was present, and addressed the meeting once or twice. He noticed the increase in the repeal rent:—Last Friday week, finding a kind of lull in the repeal cause, and a spreading apathy among the people, he had made an effort to stimulate them, and that week told the success of it [great cheers]. That success he had seen with deep thankfulness. Last week their rent was £189. Now it was more than £436 [cheers]. He now could afford to go to England [cheers and loud laughter]. And he had two reasons for going—one to present a grand jury petition with regard to the standing orders of the House as they affected the progress of the Cashel railway bill; the other, to organise a steady opposition to Lord Eliot's Disfranchisement bill.

In reference to the disputed point, whether or not he was offered the chief baronship by the whigs, he said:—

Now, the question to be decided was, whether he was offered the mastership of the Rolls or the chief baronship, or not. The first was admitted; Lord Normanby denied the latter; but there was this very comical circumstance about the offer—the Rolls were not then vacant, and Lord Normanby had not asked the assent of the gentleman who filled it to make any transfer. When the vacancy occurred in the office, Mr Woulfe wrote to him (Mr O'Connell), stating that, though the chief baronship would be given to him as a matter of routine right, yet he would waive that right altogether if the government intended to give him (Mr O'Connell) that office [cheers]. After that he had the honour of an interview with Lord Normanby, who spoke to him about the vacancy; but he (Mr O'Connell) had interrupted him, and said—“Spare yourself the trouble, my Lord; I do not wish to say anything unpleasant to you, but I will not take any office under government” [loud cheers].

FABRICATED OUTRAGES.—Edmund Fry, Esq., a magistrate of the county of Roscommon, and a person highly connected, has been tried at the petty sessions of Boyle, and bailed to take his trial at the next assizes, for a very serious offence. Mr Fry was charged with directing his herdsman, Edward Cox, to kill a mare, his property, and with subsequently swearing an affidavit, in which it was stated that the mare was killed by some malicious persons unknown, with the object of obtaining compensation of the county for the pretended malicious injury. There was also another accusation against Mr Fry, to the effect that he had caused a threatening notice to be written and transmitted to himself.

ITALY.—Letters from Leghorn, of the 7th, state that the insurrection in Calabria, so far from being put down, is spreading rapidly, but the accounts are so doubtful and unsatisfactory, that it is useless to report them. Travelers from Italy declare that all they know of the disturbances is from the French papers, for that in the country they had heard nothing of the matter. Letters from Naples state that “insurgent armed bands, consisting of 2,000 men, traversed Calabria from one end to the other,” that “they had already had several encounters with the troops, and that the insurrection had extended to the province of Apulia.” “New arrests of suspected persons had taken place at Naples;” and “the government was much alarmed by not merely the political ferment which prevailed, but by the depth of misery in which the population were plunged.”

CORN MARKET. MARK LANE. THIS DAY.

	Wheat	Barley	Oats	Beans	Peas	Flour
English ..	4600	220	2200			
Scotch						
Irish		215	25800			
Foreign ..	2800	20300	1790			

No alteration in prices—not much doing.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Our correspondent at Holywell may surely perceive that such paragraphs have no interest whatever for our readers.

"J. H." Worcester. As many as you please.

"Vox Veritatis." We are sorry that want of space forbids.

"G. D." A little too spicy.

"Noncon." will be satisfied with our remarks on this subject.

"J. P." and "A Nonconformist," received.

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Orders for the *Nonconformist* are received at the office, and by all booksellers and newsvendors. The terms of subscription, if paid in advance, are £1 6s. per annum. All communications for the Editor should be addressed to the office, No. 4, Crane court, Fleet street.

The Nonconformist.

LONDON: WEDNESDAY, MAY 15, 1844.

WE beg to announce that an Extra Number of the *Nonconformist* will be published on MONDAY MORNING NEXT, containing a full and correct report of the annual meeting of the British and Foreign Anti-slavery Society, to be held on Friday at Exeter hall, &c., &c.

SUMMARY.

PUTTING aside an extremely prosy debate raised upon a motion of Mr Hume's on the expediency of abolishing the lord-lieutenancy of Ireland—a debate which is scarcely worth ever so slender an analysis—the only parliamentary topic upon which we shall find it necessary to comment in our present number is that supplied by the ministerial Factory bill. Two evenings have been devoted to the reconsideration of this question—may we not say, two evenings have been spent in opening, by a brisk cannonade of words, a breach wide enough for the egress of government supporters, whom party spite, under the guise of benevolent intentions, had prompted to vote with Lord Ashley, and who thereby shut themselves up in an awkward dilemma? These gentlemen, shortly before Easter, were furious in their zeal for the relief of the working classes. Commercial considerations, they contended, dwindled into perfect insignificance when put into competition with the physical and moral welfare of the poor. Their breasts were full of the milk of human kindness; their hearts beat high with noble disinterestedness of emotion. They would willingly abate no small portion of England's pre-eminence as the workshop of the world for the sake of taking off two hours of daily toil from the over-worked operative. True, cynically disposed people suggested at the time that this patriotic class of senators were generous at other people's expense—that, as their property was vested in land, the value of which the proposed Ten Hours bill would not affect, they were not the most impartial judges of the amount of sacrifice which this species of legislation was worth; and that, could some conjuncture of events occur which would throw the new-born philanthropy of these gentlemen into one scale, and their worldly interests into another, their votes would quickly be transferred from Lord Ashley to Sir Robert Peel. The unlooked-for firmness of the administration brought on this conjuncture. The cabinet resolved upon defeating the noble member for Dorsetshire, or upon instant resignation. Their resignation would have been a virtual surrender of the corn monopoly, and, by no very remote consequences, a considerable depreciation of the present scale of rents. The opportunity, therefore, offered itself to this band of zealots, to signalise their concern for the poor at their own expense. A glorious occasion presented itself to them for proving themselves to be above all mercenary views. Now they could testify to the world how deep was their sincerity, in casting contempt upon merely commercial benefits when purchased by the sufferings of toiling millions. How did they comport themselves on this occasion? We reply, in a manner worthy of their past fame. They annulled their former votes in favour of the ten hours principle, and magnanimously turned their backs upon themselves, by a majority of 138. After this, we can hardly imagine even senatorial impudence and hypocrisy to go the length of arrogating for the House of Commons the smallest care for the people whom they profess to represent. The little character for honesty, which remained to them, is now clean gone, and can never be recovered.

"Humpty-dumpty sat on a wall,
Humpty-dumpty had a great fall;
Not all the king's horses nor all the king's men,
Could set humpty-dumpty up again."

The course which these partisans have taken has been singularly and very pleasingly varied. They have come forward, and, at the proper signal, retired—just as in quadrilles, opposite couples

advance and then back again; or, since we have struck upon a vein of nursery rhymes, their conduct is an apt political illustration of what until now we never thoroughly understood:—

"Dickory, dickory, dock,
The mouse ran up the clock;
The clock struck one, and down she run,
Dickory, dickory, dock."

Such is the termination of the Factory bill farce.

The House of Lords have passed the Dissenters' Chapels bill—a measure in which, as we have before intimated, we take no interest. We object to endowments for religious purposes *in toto*. We think religion should at all times be left to that support which its voluntary adherents can minister to it. He who bequeaths a sum of money for pious uses, robs posterity to exactly that extent of the power of disposing of its wealth in accordance with its own judgment; and, whilst it thus narrows the scope for the action of the voluntary principle, it withers up likewise its nerve and muscle. Endowments have never failed to injure the vitality of those churches to which they have been made over. Truth needs them not, and we have far more faith in truth than in parliamentary protection. What may become, therefore, of those already existing we care not; but we could be well content to give our vote in favour of a law enacting that henceforth no bequest, in support of any religious opinions, should have extended to it the protection of the state.

On Monday evening, Lord Brougham exposed the mass of crudities and inconsistencies which make up what we call the criminal law of the country. It is presumed that every man is acquainted with the law, by which, if a transgressor, he must ultimately be judged. It is a fact, however, that no man, though he should spend a lifetime in pursuit of this single branch of knowledge, could make himself master of all its intricacies. Lord Brougham wishes for a codification. The subject is postponed for the present session, in order that government may turn its attention to this matter. The noble lord's speech was in his happiest vein, and will abundantly repay perusal.

From parliamentary to electioneering intelligence the step is easy. Mr Thesiger, the solicitor-general, has been returned for Abingdon without a contest. The history of the whole affair is well worthy of being placed in juxtaposition with that of Gatton or Old Sarum. A young man, fresh from the University, elopes to Gretna Green with a wealthy heiress, whereupon the representation of Abingdon comes to be called among his vested rights. In due course he returns himself, intending to keep the seat warm until the next general election, when his eldest son would come of age. His health, however, fails him, and Mr Thesiger, the late "warming-pan" for the Marquis of Blandford at Woodstock, having been sent by the Duke of Marlborough in search of a constituency, Mr Duffield, the party alluded to, offers to resign in his favour—rumour says, for a consideration. A bargain, the particulars of which have not yet transpired, according to the same report, was instantly struck. Mr Duffield accepts the Chiltern Hundreds, and vacates his seat, and Mr Thesiger goes down to Abingdon and walks over the course. This is a kind of quiet mechanism which it will be long, we fear, before the Anticorn-law League will be able to destroy, or even to derange. There may be above a hundred such boroughs in the United Kingdom, returning between them some hundred and eighty members. These, added to the county representation, will give to the monopolists at any time a decided and compact majority in the House of Commons. Kilmarnock and Launceston are likewise vacant. The first will be filled up, we hope, by a good radical, a hearty complete suffragist and free-trader; the last will, of course, return a supporter of the ministry. South Lancashire opens to the League a fairer field of contest. It is peculiarly their own ground, and the battle is one which they must win. Two candidates are now canvassing the electors—Mr Brown, a supporter of free trade, and Mr Entwistle, an advocate of the Ten Hours bill and a conservative. We shall not speculate upon the chances either way, but we can hardly imagine that the League will be successfully bearded in its own stronghold. We might have noticed Mr Macaulay's letter to his constituents at Edinburgh; but we propose to deal with it more at large next week.

The Norwich church-rate case has been decided, and judgment given by Lord Denman against the pretensions of the ecclesiastical court. We trust the vivid illustration which the Norwich dissenters have now had, of the inherent tendencies of state churches, will make them forward, zealous, and persevering supporters of the "British Anti-state-church Association;" the scheme of whose organisation, as amended by the Conference, we have this day the pleasure of giving in another column.

EXCESS OF LEGISLATION—THE FACTORIES BILL.

WE have several times indicated, with more or less distinctness, the opinion we entertain respecting the policy, which late events have brought under

discussion, of interfering by means of legislation for abridging the daily labour of the working classes. That opinion, we are perfectly sensible, is rejected as unsound, by many whose judgment we respect, and whose general political views are in strict unison with our own. We deem it incumbent on us, therefore, before the question is ultimately disposed of for the session, to state as succinctly as we are able, the train of reasoning by which we have traveled to our present conclusion—to point out to our readers the grounds upon which our belief in this matter is made to rest. If, in doing so, we should somewhat outrun our usual limits, or venture deeper than ordinarily into the regions of abstraction, we trust the importance of the subject will be accepted as a sufficient apology, and the wide applicability of the principles under examination will prevail upon our friends to bear us company. In return for this tax upon their patience, we hope they will find some considerations not unworthy of being stored up against future exigencies.

It will be proper for us, in order to prevent the possibility of being misunderstood, to mark off with exactness the case with which we are about to deal. We believe, then, the working classes in this country to be chained to a daily toil which is beyond their strength. We admit that, in respect of the hours they are compelled to labour, it is a mere fiction, under the present system, to represent them as free agents. We are fully convinced that the state of things which has obtained for the last quarter of a century is as injurious, in the long run, to the master manufacturer as to his workmen—that in this, as in other instances, avarice has overshot its mark—and that the love of gain, reckless of all moral consequences, has found its own insensibility to human suffering twisted into the scourge which providence has appointed for its punishment. We think eight hours to constitute as ample a range for daily work as can be made to consist with the physical, intellectual, or moral well-being of man—that were this limit universally observed, employment would be more equally diffused, wages would be more constant, and national prosperity would be established upon a sounder basis—that the amount of wages given, does not ultimately represent the amount of toil exacted—that whilst political arrangements remain upon their present footing, capital will invariably absorb any little advantages which rightly appertain to the labouring classes. We wish, therefore, to see the end gained for which the "short time" advocates are now contending. We believe that whenever, by legitimate means, it shall be gained, one of the most beneficial revolutions of a social character will have been achieved. But we submit that it neither ought to, nor can, be accomplished by legal enactments—and that every interference of law to bring it about tends but to make "confusion worse confounded," and to complicate the very mischief which it was designed to cure. This, then, is our position. We proceed to do what in us lies to make it good.

We shall first of all lay down a general principle or two which we deem to be conclusive, and we shall then attempt to show their application to the question in hand.

Political government we take to be an ordination of heaven. The proper sphere within which its functions are to be exercised, we hold to be clearly indicated by the necessities out of which the institution arose, and by the ends which it has adequate capacities to accomplish. The laws of Providence are never superfluous—the means resorted to by the Universal Ruler are never in excess of the objects to be attained. Government cannot have been intended by him as a supernumerary expedient for compassing designs for the working out of which adequate machinery was previously in existence—nor can it have been given to men to strain after effects which it is plainly incompetent to realise. These positions we take to be self-evident—and it is because we do so, that we have uniformly set at nought, as unsound and essentially vicious, "the greatest happiness principle," of which the various factory bills which have come before us are but disguised modifications. The administration of justice between man and man—in other words, the protection from fraud and force, of person, liberty, and property, obviously requires this particular order of machinery—and as obviously, the machinery is adapted to meet the necessities of the case. Indeed, but for its misapplication to other purposes, experience might by this time have proved, that within this, its proper range, it is capable of a perfection of which we have no idea—and that, had it never departed from this its peculiar business, it might have attained a nicety of working which, under other circumstances, has been regarded as impossible. Be this as it may, it is quite clear, that government was needed for the ends we have adverted to, and that these ends it is fully able to reach. Here, then, we think we discern, written by the finger of God himself, the purpose of infinite wisdom in instituting political government amongst men—and we look with the utmost jealousy and mistrust

upon any overwise meddling, which would assign to it other and higher vocations.

We have another general remark to make. Social relationships and responsibilities are not to be considered as left to inextricable confusion, simply because removed from the touch of human governments. They are governed by providential laws—laws which, if slow in operation, are certain in result—laws, the significance of which man's wisdom cannot grasp, and the ultimate efficacy of which man's contrivances can neither hasten nor aid. Experience may suffice to have taught us, even where faith has failed, that every social wrong carries wrapped up in it the seed of its own punishment; and that the punishment is the true curative process whereby the wrong is effectually and permanently healed. Nor can we, by any artificial legislation, more speedily extirpate the evil we may deplore, than by leaving it to develop itself in accordance with its natural tendencies. We may suppress its ordinary symptoms—we may drive it into other channels; but the social mistakes of individuals and of classes, are living things which human law can never extinguish. The bad passion which, without resorting to fraud or force, seeks its gratification at the expense of all high moral, and benevolent considerations, is not expelled from the social body, by enactments which check its indulgence. It remains in full force as before; and the artificial impediment which prevents its appearance in this or that particular form, only forces it to take other more subtle, and, therefore, more mischievous forms. The selfish love of gain which takes advantage of social helplessness, may be hindered from inflicting certain kinds of mischief upon others; but, unconvinced, it will instantly resort to more refined and more evasive practices of oppression. Leave it in the hands of Providence, and Providence will deal with it—if not so summarily as our impatience could wish, at all events more effectually than our wisdom could have contrived. Our forcible intermeddling does but delay the cure, and so weaken the constitution of society as to render it incapable of throwing out the lurking poison. Great social lessons are not to be learned in a day—nor is the authority of the statute book of the smallest avail to impress them upon the understanding, or to commend them to the heart.

The application of these principles to the subject under review, we think a matter of no insuperable difficulty. The evil which needs rectification has grown out of, not deficiency of legislation, but excess of it. The labouring classes are powerless victims in the hands of capital, because they are hedged about with numberless laws, the design and effect of which are, to give to capital an unnatural share of power. Government has departed from its proper sphere—has legislated for interests—has sought to regulate trade—has tried its hands upon morals—has dabbled in education—has assumed to control the movements of religion. The consequence of all this has been, the gendering, in every department, of swarms of locusts, who feed upon industry, but add nothing to its resources—who break down the independence of the poor, and then leave them to the mercy of the spirit of mammon—who gradually depress the working class to such a depth of helplessness and misery, that new laws are called for to protect them from utter ruin. Look now at those laws! What, if passed, would they accomplish? The disease is general—the remedy is only topical. Milliners, sempstresses, tradesmen's apprentices and journeymen, agricultural labourers, men, women, and children, it would leave just where they are—as overworked as are the factory hands. It is not by doing, but by undoing, that this case is to be met. The legislature must cease to meddle with what it is incompetent to manage—must level with the dust the artificial structure of restrictions and regulations which it has been engaged during the last century in erecting. Let the host of government functionaries employed in looking after Providence, lest it should perchance go wrong, return to industrial pursuits—let every article of trade find its way to the best market—let labour be harassed by no vexatious interferences, and be preyed upon by no authorised impostures—let every man enjoy an equality of political rights—and the social system would in due time right itself. The remedy may appear a difficult one—but all other remedies, we are convinced, resolve themselves into quackery.

The "short time" theory appears to us to overlook altogether the terrible reach of the evil with which it professes to grapple. Enact it, and what do you gain? A momentary relief, at the expense of a complicity of the mischief. It could not answer its end, unless enacted for the whole world. It might drive our machinery to the continent and to America—but, in the place of universal competition, it could not command twelve hours' wages for ten hours' work. Even if it could, the advantage would soon be absorbed by capital, and labour, with a narrower scope than before for its profitable development, would sink into deeper depression than at present. This is not the way to eradicate the mischief. If the factory hands gained aught

from such an arrangement, we are thoroughly convinced that they would not gain it at the expense of the manufacturer, but at that of some other portion of the industrious classes. In other departments society is coming round to the conclusion that short hours are, after all, the most profitable—and they are voluntarily betaking themselves to social combination with a view to the desirable object. Their success will not be so early attained as if they had called in the aid of the legislature—but it will be more certain, and far more permanent. Let the factory hands try the same method—let manufacturers be instructed in their true interests—above all, let the legislature, instead of meddling further, withdraw its meddling to the whole extent we have indicated—and we have no fear whatever for the rights of industry. They are abundantly safer in the keeping of Providence, than in the keeping of human governments.

The Complete Suffrage Movement.

The Council of the National Complete Suffrage Union met at Birmingham on Monday—the President in the chair.

The attention of the Council having been called to the vacancies in the representation of South Lancashire and the Kilmarnock district of boroughs, addresses, urging the electors to support only complete suffrage candidates, were agreed to and issued.

THE REGISTRATIONS.—The Council, anxious that the friends of complete suffrage should turn their attention, with all possible speed, to the registrations, earnestly recommend them to act upon the following provisions of the new Registration act. By the new Registration act, any person, considering himself aggrieved by the decision of the revising barrister, may appeal to the court of Common Pleas against such decision. Several points have been thus recently brought before that court, and the following relating to cities and boroughs have been decided:—

1. That any number of rooms in a building, such rooms being each of £10 annual value, and let separately to different occupiers, is sufficient to confer a qualification.

2. That the name of such occupiers, being inserted in the rate book jointly with that of the landlord, is sufficient rating, and the payment of the rates by the landlord is sufficient payment on the part of such occupiers.

3. A servant occupying a house not used for the purpose of his employer's business, but occupied by him for his own use, the rent being paid by him in his services, is held to be tenant, and entitled in respect of such occupation.

4. The payment of rates by the landlord, in consideration of services performed by the occupier, who is rated, is held to be a sufficient payment by the occupier himself.

5. A cowhouse or stable, of sufficient value, will give a qualification.

6. Property situated in a borough, and of a description that will not give a qualification for the borough, will, if it be such as is required for county voters, confer on the owner the right of voting for the county.

7. In cases of successive occupation of different premises, the voter must have all such premises as are required to make up the twelve months' occupation inserted in the list of voters.

8. Delivering to the postmaster's managing clerk the duplicates and objections, for the purposes of posting, stamping, and comparing, is a delivery, for the purposes of the Registration act, to the postmaster.

9. Where a servant rents a house belonging to the master, but which he is permitted to occupy only for the more efficient discharge of the duties of his situation, there is no relation of landlord and tenant, and he will be disqualified from voting in the borough in which such house is situated.

SECOND ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COUNCIL OF THE NATIONAL COMPLETE SUFFRAGE UNION.

THE Council of the National Complete Suffrage Union respectfully present to the members the second annual report of their proceedings, and review of the supply movement.

In June last, W. S. Crawford, the member for Rochdale, moved for leave to bring in a bill for the complete representation of the people, and to shorten the duration of parliaments. Of the whole 668 members who constitute the present House of Commons, only thirty-two voted for the motion. Subsequently he moved for a repeal of the Septennial act. Only twenty-three names were found in the minority, while in the majority against it, was the leader of the Reform bill party in the House! These facts, viewed in connexion with factious delays and difficulties, which the M.P. for Rochdale had to contend with, for upwards of four months, in bringing those two motions forward, produced the conviction in his mind, that some "change was indispensably necessary in the mode of bringing forward the national wants and complaints." On the 21st September, he addressed a letter to the president of the Union, suggesting that the time had come when the people should take their stand on the constitutional principle, that redress of grievances should precede the voting of supplies. This proposal was deliberately and unanimously approved of by the council, and to its practical application their time and attention have been almost exclusively devoted. It is unnecessary now to recapitulate the various steps they have taken to create and extend an enlightened public opinion in favour of this measure; during the four months it was prominently before the public, it received as large a share of popular approbation as probably any measure ever obtained in the first stage of its growth.

Though the partial application of the principle in the House of Commons, has not yet been followed by the results which the support it received out of doors would have warranted the friends of the movement to expect, enough has been done to shew that an instrument exists, and may be wielded by constitutional and peaceable means, by even a small minority in that House, for the effectual

deliverance of the people from political bondage, whenever they unitedly and heartily demand its application.

The majority has successfully resisted *five* amendments, having for their ultimate object the practical enforcement of the principle; and the member for Rochdale said, "he could not take upon himself the responsibility of carrying the supply movement further during the present session;" but he "has entered his solemn protest against the competency of the House to make laws, or impose taxes, so long as the great body of the people are unrepresented." And "he wished it to be distinctly understood that he held himself perfectly and entirely free to resume the contest" whenever circumstances might suggest the proper time.

The army estimates was the chief ground chosen on which to contend for the people's rights; the Council of the Union were particularly desirous that the contest should be well sustained there. They called together a few friends from different parts of the kingdom, to meet in London on the 31st of January last; and those friends were given to understand that they would most likely be asked to meet again with others when the army estimates came on. But while arrangements were being contemplated for this end—while the Council were urging their friends to prepare petitions to the House, and memorials to representatives on the subject, the army estimates were hurried forward with unprecedented speed, and before it was possible to call forth anything like an expression of public opinion against them, they were passed. This haste on the part of the government will not be misunderstood—it will be hailed as a proof that the supply movement is feared, and will serve as an instructive lesson to the people to be prepared for any such contingency on future occasions.

The Council continue unshaken in their confidence of the efficiency of this mode of action. Some of the grounds on which they rest are these:—

1st. It is admitted by the First Minister of the Crown, and conceded by parliament, that the right of withholding the supplies has been created for the purpose of enabling a minority within the House to resist the acts of an oppressive majority; the people have, therefore, but to prove a case of oppression, in order to justify a few independent members in resisting every vote of the public money until proved grievances are redressed.

2nd. The practical application of the rule would necessarily imply the triumph of complete suffrage, inasmuch as the master grievance—non-representation—must be among those first removed. The House of Commons has already, by receiving petitions presented this session, impeaching its constitution, and denying its right to legislate for those whom it does not represent, placed itself in a position which in justice should compel it to make good its claims as a representative assembly, and substantiate its right to pass laws which the whole community are bound to obey, by extending the elective franchise to every male citizen of twenty-one.

3rd. Amendments on the supplies are admirably adapted to force discussions on the House. This fact was strikingly demonstrated on the first night of the present session, when an amendment was moved on the address, declaring that it was the first duty of parliament to remove all just causes of the people's complaints. Had it not been for the discussion which that amendment called forth, the public might have been yet in doubt as to the views of government as to the powers of the minority of the House of Commons to withhold the supplies. The state of the representation was brought fully out by subsequent discussions on the same principle—facts of the most important nature connected therewith were disclosed, and being of necessity reported by the newspapers of every shade of political opinion, they found their way into circles which they never could have reached by the ordinary channels of information which the friends of complete suffrage can command. Besides the good done by such discussions, reiterated motions of this kind, followed by as frequent divisions, would show forward before the public the true men and the false men, and would force the doubtful either to fall into the ranks of the people's true servants, or retire from a post they have not the honesty or the courage to defend.

4th. The supply movement affords the only means in present circumstances, of doing justice to public opinion. Entrenched behind a majority, great in number, and strong in having the sympathy of the House of Lords, government either treats the demands of public opinion with indifference, or employs physical force to subvert them whenever they become formidable. Public opinion, as in the case of the Factories Education bill, may check an evil, but it is evidently inoperative on the present House of Commons, for compelling the redress of grievances and the concession of rights. While this fact holds good in regard to England, it applies with much greater force to Ireland, where peaceable public meetings have been declared illegal, and convictions obtained against men, by a partisan jury, for no other reason than that they became influential in constitutionally representing the demand of the people for what they conceived to be their just rights.

5th. A growing disposition, on the part of government, to rule by physical force. This distressing fact is not characteristic merely of the present administration—it goes further back, and discovers itself, more implicitly, but alike despotically, in the Irish Coercion bill of Earl Grey, as in the Irish Arms bill of Sir Robert Peel.

In these circumstances the people are now virtually confined to one of two alternatives—either they may unite, and successfully carry out the supply movement; or they may continue the former mode of advocating their rights, and trust to circumstances to bring about a favourable change. It has been the aim of the Council, in supporting the former, never to lose sight of the fact, that the first object of the Union is, "the creating and extending an enlightened public opinion in favour of the principles and necessary details of complete suffrage;" and it is gratifying to know, that the supply movement, while it has commended itself as a direct and most effective mode of parliamentary action, has tended to create a more lively feeling in favour of complete suffrage in many parts of the kingdom. During the six months it was in operation, more lectures were delivered, more tracts distributed, and more societies formed, than during the corresponding period of the previous season; and although the Council have still to regret that a factious spirit prevails amongst a few men, there is every reason to believe that the bond of union between the middle and working classes has been strengthened.

In connexion with this movement, the Council would

earnestly call attention to the fact, that the division lists on the five amendments which the members for Rochdale moved on the supplies, have proved that the people must not only cease to hope for any substantial good from either of the great political parties in the House, but even from many members who profess to be advocates of liberal principles. Scarcely had the principle been applied, when circumstances occurred which gave but too much reason to suspect that a systematic attempt had been resolved on to crush the movement within the house, ere it gathered strength. It was with deep regret, but not with much surprise, that the Council found some members, who have long professed to be the advocates of democratic principles, raising objections of the most sophistical character, and exhibiting a degree of zeal and energy in propagating those views, which, to say the least, contrast strangely with their claim to be amongst the true representatives of the people. Such men are not the true representatives of the people: they want either the honesty or the courage to defend the position they have obtained; and if their constituencies be true to themselves and the great principles involved in this movement, they will speedily call them to account. These are not the times when such conduct may pass with impunity.

The discussions and division list also show that the friends of the movement will have to look out for, and zealously seek the return of men who will unite with the few already in the House, and take an active part in leading on this struggle—men who love truth for its own sake, and are ready to contend for it on that ground alone. With twenty such men within the House of Commons, any government could soon be compelled to do justice to the people. As a general rule, it ought never to be forgotten, that an honest and straightforward suffragist candidate must of necessity be the friend of civil, religious, and commercial freedom, while no qualification short of this affords a guarantee that justice will be done to the people.

Apart from the more immediate business of the Union, the attention of the Council has latterly been frequently called to Ireland. Having entered their solemn protest against the interference of government with the right of free and peaceable discussion which their Irish fellow-subjects claim to exercise, they watched each aggressive movement with feelings of alarm and regret; and now see, with deep concern, a deliberate attempt to wrest from Ireland the last remaining security which she possessed in the power to return a majority of liberal representatives; under pretence of extending the franchise in Ireland, government has introduced a bill, the object of which is to create a new franchise of the most obnoxious description, and the effect of which will be, if carried, to throw the present representation into the hands of the oligarchy.

It is some satisfaction to know that the liberal representatives of Ireland have resolved to oppose this measure "inch by inch," and it is the anxious wish of the Council that it should be met as it deserves, not only by negative amendments, but amendments having for their object the extension of the franchise in the United Kingdom, to every male citizen of twenty-one.

Amongst the encouraging circumstances which a retrospect of the past year presents to view, none is more gratifying than the fact, that the friends of the cause are now feeling their individual responsibility for the spread of information on the suffrage question, uniting together in the several localities, in order to secure the services of properly qualified lecturers.

A deliberate consideration of the whole subject of lecturing, has confirmed the Council in opinion that this is the best and safest course of action. In declining to take the responsibility of appointing lecturers themselves, the Council believe that a stimulus will thus be given to local efforts which cannot fail to promote the advancement of the suffrage cause.

If the friends of the suffrage, in every town where an association has been formed, would undertake to carry our principles into every other town or village in their neighbourhood where they are not yet known, would circulate the tracts of the Union, and diligently attend to the registration, more good would be done than by any central effort which could be made.

In renewing the whole subject of the suffrage movement since its commencement two years ago, the Council have pleasure in being able to record their conviction that its practical adoption by the legislature, is now reduced to a question of time. There is an undercurrent in its favour which is gradually gathering strength; prejudices which were at one time strongly set against it, are now beginning to disappear; and the impression is evidently gaining ground that the extension of the suffrage to every male citizen of twenty-one, would not only be just, but safe; and constitute in itself the means of realising for the people, in all their fulness, the advantage of civil, religious, and commercial freedom—of justice to Ireland, and universal peace.

PERTH.—On Monday and Tuesday, 6th and 7th of May, Mr Henry Vincent delivered two lectures in Mill street chapel, on the state of the country, the dangerous influence of aristocracy, and on the principles and objects of the Complete Suffrage Union. The announcement of the lectures excited considerable interest in our aristocratic city, and great desire was manifested to hear the lecturer. The first lecture was attended by a large and respectable audience. Mr David Low occupied the chair. Mr Vincent, who was received with loud applause, addressed the meeting at great length, and gave a clear picture of the social state of the country, and forcibly depicted the evils flowing from class legislation. The second night the chapel was crowded, and numbers of highly respectable electors attended. Mr Duncan occupied the chair. Mr Vincent's exposition of democratic principles was received throughout with the heartiest enthusiasm, and his defence of the working classes against the calumnies of their aristocratic calumniators was heartily responded to. He sat down amid loud cheers. Mr Vincent had to leave for Stirling early on Wednesday morning; but so great interest had his lectures excited that a number of friends earnestly pressed him to return on Friday to give a third address, to which Mr V. afterwards assented.

STIRLING.—Mr Vincent has been cordially welcomed to this town by the friends of civil and religious liberty. He delivered two lectures in the

Court house, which were presided over by our indefatigable fellow-citizen, William Forbes, Esq. The first was on Wednesday night last, and was attended by a large and respectable body of the inhabitants. Mr Vincent's address was listened to with great attention by those who at one time doubted the policy of complete suffrage, but who now received his remarks with loud applause. The second meeting was held on Thursday night, and was crowded to overflowing, the passages being packed by people. Mr Vincent was again received with loud applause, and his principles received the hearty approval of the crowded assembly. The meeting was a very interesting one, and will make a great impression upon the city. At the conclusion, three cheers were given for Mr Vincent, three for the *Nonconformist*, and three for complete suffrage. It is delightful to witness the steady, but certain, progress of the complete suffrage cause.

PERTH.—**SATURDAY MORNING.**—According to the arrangement, Mr Vincent returned to this city yesterday; and at night again addressed the people in Mill street chapel. The chapel was crowded to the very doors, and a more respectable and attentive audience could scarcely have been selected. We observed that a great number of electors were present, and some who exercise no little influence. Mr Low was called to the chair. Mr Vincent was received by loud cheers, and addressed the meeting for upwards of two hours and a half. Great was the interest excited—patient and close the attention paid to the speaker—and most enthusiastic the applause. We seldom or never saw a meeting so thoroughly interested in the sentiments of a speaker. At the conclusion of Mr Vincent's address a vote of thanks was given to him, with three hearty cheers. It was announced that a meeting would be held in the chapel on Monday evening, to organise the Complete Suffrage Association; and there is every reason to believe that the suffrage cause will make rapid progress in this city. There was a strong desire expressed to see Mr Vincent again at the earliest opportunity.

EDINBURGH.—**MEETING OF COMPLETE SUFFRAGE ELECTORS.**—A numerous and influential meeting of electors, convened by eight members of the town council, met last night in Johnston's Temperance Hotel, to take into consideration the duty of electors on the present occasion; councillor Russell occupied the chair. Councillor Stott moved the first resolution, to the effect that the present members for the city do not properly represent the inhabitants, and that it is an indispensable requisite in any candidate, that besides holding free trade principles he shall be prepared to vote for a total severance of the connection between church and state, and that he earnestly and sincerely support the principle that every man of mature age be fairly and freely represented in parliament. The next resolution instructed the Complete Suffrage council to have in readiness candidates qualified in accordance with the principles above stated; and the third recommended complete suffrage electors to subscribe their names in the complete suffrage roll, and exhorted persons not registered, to qualify at the ensuing term of registration. After an interesting and searching discussion, the resolutions were carried unanimously. Nothing more distinctly shows the agitation of the public mind in Edinburgh regarding its representatives than this meeting; and its unanimity in the condemnation of the present members, taken in connexion with the proceedings of the Anti-corn-law Committee on Thursday evening, forms a strange comment on the statements by Mr Gibson-Craig, that he represents the opinions of the "liberal electors" upon all subjects except a fixed duty on corn.—*Edinburgh Chron.*

Wednesday's *Gazette* announced that the Queen had appointed Philip Henry Stanhope, Esq. (commonly called Viscount Mahon), and the Right Honourable Thomas Babington Macaulay, "to be additional commissioners for the purpose of inquiring whether advantage might not be taken of the rebuilding of the houses of parliament for promoting and encouraging the fine arts."

THE QUEEN DOWAGER will leave England for Germany on the 2nd of June, on a visit to her illustrious relatives.

ANOTHER ROYAL VISITOR.—Under the date of "Dresden, 29th April," the *Globe* says—"Queen Victoria will not come to Germany this summer; but the King of Saxony will go to England on the 29th May, to pay a visit to the English court. His Majesty will also visit Scotland. The whole journey is to be accomplished in six weeks."

LORD BLOOMFIELD has been selected to proceed to St Petersburg, to escort the Emperor of Russia to England.

LORD BROUGHAM, who has not presided at any public meeting in Exeter hall since 1838, is to take the chair at the anniversary meeting of the British and Foreign Anti-slavery Society, on Friday next, the 17th instant. Many well-known and old friends of the cause are likely to be present, and, among them, Daniel O'Connell, Esq., M.P., has signified his intention to attend.

THE CROWN PLANTATIONS.—Another most abominable attempt to destroy the valuable plantations of firs and young oaks in the Great Park, at Windsor, was made on Thursday last, but was fortunately discovered in sufficient time to prevent the extensive destruction which otherwise must have ensued from taking place. We regret to state that not the least traces of the scoundrels (who are no doubt part of the same gang who fired upwards of 700 acres of Prince Albert's plantations in the neighbourhood of Bagshot a fortnight ago) have yet been discovered.—*Times.*

SIR HENRY HARDINGE.—The directors of the East India Company intend to give a grand dinner to Sir Henry Hardinge upon the 22nd instant, at the London tavern, upon his appointment as governor-general of India. Sir Henry Hardinge is in his fifty-ninth year; and is married to Lady Emily Stuart, whose first husband was Mr John James; her ladyship is mother of the present Sir W. James, M.P. He served at Waterloo, where he lost an arm, for which he receives a pension of £300 per annum. He is expected to proceed to India by the overland route.

MINISTERIAL CHANGES.—The *Morning Herald* gives the following list of changes consequent upon Sir Henry Hardinge's removal to India:—The Hon. Sydney Herbert to be Secretary at War, without a seat in the cabinet; the Hon. H. Corry to be Secretary to the Admiralty, in the room of Mr Herbert. Mr Cardwell will probably have Mr Corry's seat at the Admiralty board. None of these appointments are officially announced, but the list is probably correct.

REPORT OF THE RAILWAY DEPARTMENT.—**BOARD OF TRADE.**—This document reports a progressive increase in the safety of railway traveling during the past year, only one serious accident of a public nature having occurred, namely, that on the North Midland railway, by which one passenger lost his life; the number of passengers traveling on the 66 railways during the past year not being less than 24,000,000, conveyed on an average about 15 miles each.—*Railway Record.*

COST OF THE CORN AND SUGAR MONOPOLIES.—The *Economist* of Saturday, continuing its account of the weekly cost of these monopolies to the country, gives the following result:—

Balance from last week (corrected)	£6,452,335
Extra cost of sugar this week	70,003
Ditto of bread	288,460

Extra cost from Jan. 1st to this day £6,710,798

THE GOVERNMENT CURRENCY PLAN.—Sir Robert Peel's new project for regulating banking affairs is considered as the most important of its kind that has appeared during the last five-and-twenty years. As a whole, it has given much satisfaction in the City, amongst commercial circles, and is generally approved of throughout the country.

THE CUSTOMS.—The Commissioners of Customs, with the approval of the treasury, have at length brought out their scheme for the landing waiters' and searchers' department in the port of London. Two officers of a new denomination will be created, with the style and title of Inspectors-general of the waterside and warehousing departments. An addition of three new officers will be made to the number of landing surveyors. The six classes of landing waiters remain as heretofore. Another rank of officers has been established, subordinate to, and under the orders of the landing waiters, but superior to the lockers and weighers. This class consists of sixty persons, to be chosen by the Board of Customs, from the most experienced men amongst the lockers and weighers, and to be called superintendents of lockers and warehouses.—*Observer.*

THE PENNY POSTAGE.—The ordinary post-office returns which have just been made to parliament, show, among others, the following results:—The number of letters delivered in the United Kingdom, in 1843, was upwards of 220 millions. The three weeks which are given of 1844 show an increase over the corresponding weeks of 1843 of a quarter of a million of letters per week. The letters of the London district post are now at the rate of twenty-six millions per annum, or fully double the number under the old system. The gross revenue of the year 1843 was £1,620,867, and the net revenue £640,217; showing in each instance an increase, as compared with 1842, of about £40,000; which, considering the important reductions in foreign rates, is as much as could be expected. The gross revenue is now about seventy per cent. of that received under the old system, and it exceeds that obtained during the fourpenny rate. The money orders still increase in number and amount. The sum annually remitted through the Post office in England and Wales alone is now nearly five millions. The increase of money orders since 1839 is twenty-five fold.

CHAPELS AND MEETING-HOUSES REGISTRATION BILL.—A bill has been brought into parliament by Lord Teynham, to regulate and certify the places of meeting for religious worship of congregations and assemblies of protestants, the principal object of which appears to be to permit and allow places of meeting for religious worship to extend to forty persons, instead of being limited as hitherto to twenty, without any certificate.

REPRESENTATION OF PRESTON.—A rumour was prevalent in this town yesterday, that Sir Hesketh Fleetwood, Bart., M.P., for this borough, intends shortly to resign his seat in parliament.—*Preston Chronicle.*

REPRESENTATION OF THE KILMARNOCK BURGH.—This seat has become vacant by the death of Alex. Johnston, Esq., of Sheffield, who expired at Rothesay on Thursday last.

It is now said that Norris castle, "Windsor castle in miniature," the seat of Mr Robert Bell, will be the royal residence in the Isle of Wight; Osborne house being far too small to accommodate half the royal suite. The inspector of palaces has been in treaty for the purchase of the castle; to which it is proposed to add Osborne house, which stands next to it. The amount asked is between £60,000 and £80,000. During the sojourn of her Majesty in the Isle of Wight, Sir Robert Peel, it is said, will occupy the seat of Hughes Hughes, Esq., at Ryde.

General News.

FOREIGN.

UNITED STATES.

The packet ship *New York* brings the important intelligence that the treaty with Texas had been signed. The *Madisonian* of the 12th ult. says:—"It is understood that the treaty of annexation between the United States and Texas was this day signed, and that it will be submitted to the Senate for ratification as soon as the accompanying documents can be prepared." There was, however, but little doubt that the Senate would refuse to ratify the treaty. There seems to be little doubt (says the *Chronicle*), that the aim of the government in solemnly signing this treaty, preparatory to its being submitted to the Senate, whose sanction is requisite to give it validity, is merely to create popularity for Mr Calhoun, to enable him to stand forth eminent, if not successful, in the ensuing election, and throw upon the senatorial whigs the odium of rejecting a national and a popular measure with the south and west. Van Buren, the foremost candidate for the presidency, has experienced unexpected defeats in some of the states, especially in Connecticut, and it is said that should Virginia declare against him he will abandon the field. It is also alleged that were Mr Clay to declare for annexation, whilst Van Buren held back, Virginia would prefer the former. And accordingly Mr Clay does come forward to coquet with annexation in a manner strange enough for a whig leader. "He is for annexation," it appears, "if the people desire it, but not at present. He must be certain that the whole people desire it, and he would refer it to them." This mere adjournment of acquiescence on the part of the great whig leader, should it prove true, argues badly for the future fate of the question of annexation. His followers are, however, staunch; and at a great public meeting held on his behalf at New York, annexation was loudly denounced as an inevitable dissolution of the Union.

As regards the Oregon negotiations, the Washington correspondent of the *New York Journal of Commerce* says, that M. Calhoun had proposed the parallel of forty-nine as the boundary, but that Mr Pakenham's instructions did not allow him to accept it. The tariff question was still under discussion in the House of Representatives.

The Hon. W. R. King has been confirmed in his appointment as Minister Plenipotentiary to France; also his excellency W. Shannon, governor of Ohio, as Minister of Mexico.

HAYTI.

The *Jamaica Gazette* of the 8th April announces the arrival at Kingston of the French brig *Adelina*, with one hundred and forty passengers, all persons of colour, flying from a new insurrection in Hayti:—

The new president, Herard, had marched with a large army for St Domingo city, to quell the insurrection in the eastern portion of the island. Taking advantage of the absence of the general and troops, the black people rose en masse on Sunday the 31st of March, and commenced an indiscriminate slaughter of the brown population. On Wednesday, the national guards of the town of Aux Cayes went out with two pieces of ordnance to suppress the rebellion and punish the rebels; but, as we have learned, their own general commanding delivered up the cannons to the blacks, and joined them himself. Thus strengthened, they drove the national guard back again to Aux Cayes, entered the town, and commenced a relentless butchery—murdering every brown person without regard to sex or age. The wretched inhabitants had no means of defence; no refuge, save on board the few foreign ships lying in the harbour—French, American, and English. Into these they crowded in confused and huddled batches; men, women, and children, literally covering the decks, and exhibiting a distressing spectacle of misery and sudden destitution. But the decked vessels were not sufficient to hold the number of wretched refugees: the port was dotted over with small open boats, each containing as many human beings as it could hold, who dared not remain on land to await certain massacre, and yet could have little hope of escape by sea.

The work of blood still proceeded on the 4th of April. Some mahogany-cutters at Port-au-Prince had seized a Colonel Pimental; and among his papers is said to have been one making an offer from the French government, through the French consul, of men and money in aid of the revolt.

SPAIN.

The *Heraldo* announces that M. Gonzales Bravo is appointed Spanish ambassador to the court of Lisbon.

The *Gazette* publishes the decree abolishing the state of siege throughout the kingdom. All the acts of the new ministry evinced a disposition on their part to return to the régime of legality. Messrs Joaquim, Maria Lopez, and Fernando Madoz, against whom arrest warrants had been issued for alleged participation in the conspiracy of Alicant, and who had remained concealed ever since, had presented themselves to the political chief, by whom they were told that there existed no charge against them, and that they might consider themselves at liberty. A decree for the dissolution of the Cortes and the convocation of a new Assembly in August next, was expected to appear. The *Times* correspondent gives the following curious information:—

Places and property are changing hands rapidly. We hear that the lands of the famous Godoy, Prince of Peace, confiscated thirty-six years ago, have been recently restored by a private order to the family. The estates include the palace of Buena Vista, lately given to Espartero, and the Soto de Reina, presented by the Cortes thirty years ago to the Duke of Wellington!

The Queen-mother was not forgotten (did not forget herself) during the last days of the late ministry. She is stated to have received "repayments" amounting to

6,000,000 of reals, in bills on the colonies—8,000,000 in all since her arrival in Spain, for money advanced while in Paris, and arrears!

PORTUGAL.

Intelligence from Portugal, to the 6th inst., gives an account of the terms in the first instance proposed by the Count Bomfim, on the morning of the 28th ultimo, and refused by the General Font Nova, the subsequent conditions accepted by the former, and the surrender of the town on the evening of 28th. By those conditions, 44 military officers were permitted to retire into Spain, and 724 soldiers of different regiments laid down their arms, and were placed at the disposal of government, and were already on their march to Oporto, guarded by one of the brigades of the Queen's troops. The intention of the government, it was said, was to send them to Africa; how far this is a fulfilment of the guarantee of their lives, given by the victorious general, is somewhat problematical.

FOREIGN MISCELLANY.

LORD ELLENBOROUGH'S LAST EXPLOIT.—At a ball and supper given to him at Calcutta, on the 14th of March, at which 130 persons were present, although 600 had been invited, Lord Ellenborough, in responding to a compliment paid him by the assembly, made a long speech on himself, his power, his influence, his bravery, &c. We extract the following morsel:—

We have met to-day to be agreeable, and therefore I banish politics. But I may say again I have done my duty [great cheering, and cries of "Bravo," "Go it!"]. Hitherto my measures have all been triumphant and successful [cheers]. I take no credit for that. How far they may continue successful Heaven only knows; at all events it will not be my fault. I deserve success—that's a fact [cheers]. I have sought out merit in the army, and rewarded it [loud cheers]. I intend to do so in future. I am come amongst you like an English gentleman amongst his tenants. If you receive me politely, well and good; if not, it is your fault, not mine [cheers]. Gentlemen, I drink to you all. [Tosses off a bumper of Burgundy, amidst rapturous applause.]

Letters from Paris state that a new absentee-tax, ordained by the Emperor of Russia, has frightened home numbers of that nation. For a family of three, who pass a year away from Russia, the absentee-tax amounts to about £240.

RAILWAYS IN DENMARK.—A letter from Copenhagen, April 2, says:—"Railroads are beginning to excite attention here, and within the last month the King has authorised different societies for the construction of the following lines:—1. One from Copenhagen to Elsinore, about thirteen French leagues in length. 2. Another to cross the island of Zealand in its whole length, from Copenhagen to Corsoer, the length of which will be about thirty-one leagues. 3. Six branch lines in the Duchy of Holstein from the main railroad now in construction between Kiel and Altona, which will unite the principal towns of Holstein together, and the North Sea with the Baltic."

There were riots in Munich on Friday week, on account of a rise in the price of beer. The king showed himself, and exhorted the rioters to disperse; but the tumult was not quelled without a somewhat sanguinary use of soldiery and cannon. Letters from Munich, of the 7th, state that order has been completely established, but more than two hundred persons have been arrested. The government gives out that the King, at the request of the brewers, ordered the reduction of the price of the beer, because the advance of price had created so serious a riot; but the real fact is, that the troops refused to fire upon the people, and the result might have been very serious, had the King not given way.

CLAIRVOYANCE IN PARIS.—The *Paris Globe* of Sunday publishes a curious account of a somnambulist experiment, at which Lord Brougham and the Hon. Mrs Damer were present. The learned lord, holding out his closed hand to the somnambulist, asked him what was written in it, to which the reply immediately was, Chester. It certainly was not Exchequer. Mrs Damer asked the somnambulist if he could tell her what she had placed on her table before she left home? "Yes," said he, "I see it now, it is a medallion." "And what does it contain?" "Hair." "Whose hair?" "That of three personages—Napoleon, Wellington, and a third, whose name I cannot tell, but he was an Englishman and a sailor, and he died before Napoleon." "You are right," said the lady, "it is the hair of Lord Nelson." A gentleman—the *Globe* says Viscount Jocelyn, but this I believe is an error—produced a box wrapped up in several sheets of paper, and asked what was in it? "Something red," said the somnambulist, "and from a distant country;" and then, after a pause, added, "It is a piece of coral, carved into a death's head;" and this was found to be the case. On another occasion, with the same somnambulist, Victor Hugo was present, and produced a sealed packet, enclosed in several sheets of paper; he asked what it contained? "The word *politique*," said the somnambulist, "printed in large characters on light green paper. M. Victor Hugo cut it out of a pamphlet which I now see lying on his table at his own house;" and this M. Hugo acknowledged to be the fact. I give you the above as I find it; you must not ask me to say whether I believe it or the contrary.—*Paris Correspondent of the Globe*.

MONSTROUS SENTENCE.—"I have just been informed of a case which fully illustrates the proposition that slavery subverts the moral government of God, by rewarding vice and punishing virtue. A coloured woman is now lying in a dungeon in Virginia, under sentence of death, to be executed in the ensuing month. Her crime is, that she struck, and happened

to kill, a young man who attempted a brutal assault upon her person! It is not pretended that she aimed to kill. In her wretchedness and degradation she still dared to aspire to the dignity of a pure soul, and of honourable womanhood; and the blow which was merely intended to repel the ravisher, by an unhappy fatality proved mortal. D.L.C."—*Anti-Slavery Standard*.

DOMESTIC.

METROPOLITAN.

THE ANTI-CORN-LAW LEAGUE held its usual weekly meeting at Covent Garden theatre on Wednesday night. The attendance was as numerous as on former occasions, and the interest unabated. The chairman, Mr Warburton (who attended the meeting of the League in that place for the first time) made a clever, argumentative speech, in which he clearly pointed out the beneficial results which had followed the agitation on the corn laws during the last few years, and the strong necessity there now existed for supporting commerce. The Hon. C. P. Villiers apologised for the absence of Mr Bright, in consequence of a domestic affliction; and of other leading repealers, who had gone down to Lancashire, to promote the return of a free trader for the southern division of that county. Mr John Gibbs, father of the editor of the radical and consistent *Aylesbury News*, a tenant-farmer and great land agent in Buckinghamshire for twenty-five years, made an effective and humorous speech in condemnation of all monopolies, especially that on corn, and was loudly cheered. W. J. Fox, Esq., next addressed the meeting in an eloquent speech, after which the vast assemblage separated.

PHILANTHROPIC, &c. SOCIETIES.

The annual dinner of the Printers' Pension Society was held at the London tavern, on Tuesday evening, Lord R. Grosvenor in the chair; nearly £300 was subscribed after the dinner towards the funds.

On Tuesday, the Church Pastoral Aid Society held its annual meeting. This society makes grants to 237 incumbents, having charge of 1,935,613 souls; income, £21,828; probable liabilities, £20,950.

On Wednesday, the Protestant Association met at Exeter hall; Mr Plumptre, M.P., in the chair. Tractarianism, Maynooth, and popery, were among the topics canvassed. The Society has distributed 150,000 tracts during the year; the receipts (including a donation of £1,000 from Admiral Duff) were £2,188; expenditure, £1,802.

On Wednesday, the fifty-fifth anniversary of the Literary Fund Society took place at the Freemasons' tavern, when nearly 200 gentlemen sat down. The chair was taken by the Marquis of Northampton. The subscriptions for the current year amounted to upwards of £800.

A meeting of the friends of the London Infirmary for the cure of Diseases of the Skin took place at the hall of Commerce, Mr Samuel Gurney in the chair. The rapid increase of applicants for relief from such diseases evinced the necessity which existed for increased accommodation. It was needful, therefore, to hire a place of sufficient space to afford room for the erection of baths and other accommodations; to accomplish which it was requisite to raise the sum of £1,000, and an annual income of £600. Thousands would be annually relieved by the Institution thus enlarged. Several gentlemen agreed to form themselves into a committee for the great objects of the meeting.

The ninth general meeting of the subscribers to the London Female Servants' Home took place at Exeter hall, on Thursday. John Labouchere, Esq., the chairman, observed, that there were no less than from 10,000 to 15,000 female servants annually out of employment in this metropolis. And when they considered the temptations and impositions to which they were subject, the establishment of institutions which not only afforded them religious instruction, but all the comforts of a well conducted home, was of the greatest possible advantage. During the past year there had been 238 admissions. The receipts were £200.

The annual meeting of the subscribers to the Governesses' Benevolent Institution, was held at the Hanover Square rooms; the Hon. William Ashley in the chair. The report stated that the entire receipts had been £2,437 17s. 4d., and that deducting the expenditure, a balance of £673 3s. 11d. remained with the treasurer. It further appeared that, from the 17th of March, 1843, to the 26th of March, 1844, the sum of £2,351 9s. 9d. had been received from ladies, governesses, who wished to purchase annuities for themselves, agreeably to the regulations, &c. Amongst the subscribers are several members of the royal family, and of the nobility and gentry.

A great meeting was held at Exeter hall on Friday, to receive the report of the Lay Association of the (established) church of Scotland. The Marquis of Bute presided; and several noblemen, gentlemen, and ministers of Scotland attended. Dr M'Leod, Dr Barr, Dr Muir, and Mr J. Cumming attended as a deputation. The association has an income of £4,000; and it has established 144 schools, with 1,300 scholars.

CONDITION OF THE WORKING CLASSES.—On Saturday a meeting was held at Willis's rooms, St James's, of a society "for the Improvement of the Condition of the Labouring Classes." There was a very large attendance of highly respectable persons, including a considerable proportion of ladies. Among the gentlemen on the platform were Lord Ashley, the Bishop of Salisbury, Viscount Chelsea, Mr R. Burgess, Sir George Rose, Mr H. M'Neil, Mr Bull, Mr Colquhoun, M.P., &c., &c. Lord Ashley presided; and explained the objects of the society:—

There were three main objects to which the society would have to direct the attention of the public. The first was the improvement of the dwelling houses of the poor in town and country. On the advantage of an improved system of ventilation and drainage he did not think it at all necessary to enlarge; but, in addition to those objects, it was highly desirable that an end should be put to a system which had sprung up in the rural and in the town districts, called the barrack system—under which two or three families, and (as he had himself often seen) even eight, nine, or ten persons were sleeping in a room not large enough for the accommodation of a single person in a comfortable condition of life. The next object to which it was proposed to call the attention of the society was the extension, as far as it was possible to extend it, of the allotment system—or what, perhaps, would be a better term, the field garden system—which, wherever it had been carried out, had produced the most striking benefits. He would assume it to be unnecessary to expatiate on the advantages derivable from this system, as he believed they were generally admitted [hear]. The other object of the society would be the formation of friendly loan societies, upon the principle of those which had been established in many parts of Ireland, and which had been found to produce the most beneficial results in the diminution of pauperism and the elevation of the character of the people [hear].

Among the speakers were several clergymen, including Mr Hugh McNeil, Mr Bull, of Birmingham, Mr Burgess, and the Hon. S. G. Osborne, Mr Colquhoun, M.P., Mr Milnes, M.P., the Hon. Mr Cowper, M.P., and Mr Leonard Horner, the factory inspector. The last-named gentleman related one or two startling facts:—

In one of the great manufacturing districts, within the last two years, inhabited by 105,000 people, contained within a range of five miles, there was not in that vast population (90 per cent. of whom consisted of the working classes) a single properly furnished room, and not one-twentieth part of those persons were in possession of what the exigencies of nature required. Nor was there one medical charity throughout the district—either hospital, dispensary, or any other [hear, hear]. The fact was scarcely credible, but it was so. In one street in Manchester alone there were three druggists who sold five gallons a week of each of these drugs—one was called "Godfrey's Cordial," and the other (significantly enough) "Atkinson's Qui-tus." A teaspoonful was a dose, each of which contained what was equal to 100 drops of laudanum [hear]. The meeting would be able thus to form some idea of the extent to which this practice must operate on the infant population—its result was, that a large portion of the population were brought up crippled, stunted, or deformed [hear, hear].

The speakers expatiated at great length on the religious, social, and physical degradation of the poor; and resolutions based on the three objects of the society were unanimously passed. A committee was appointed, and the necessary steps were taken for organising the society; £400 being subscribed at the meeting.

THE BANK OF ENGLAND AND THE GOVERNMENT CURRENCY SCHEME.—The correspondence between the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Governor and Deputy-governor of the Bank of England, containing the terms of their agreement for the regulation of the Bank charter and the currency, formed the subject of deliberation on Monday, in a full court of proprietors of the stock of that corporation. A tiresome discussion took place, and some opposition seems to have been manifested against the motion proposed by Mr Hammond, for agreeing to the terms of the government; but the ultimate decision of the meeting was virtually unanimous in adopting them. The speech of Mr Samuel Jones Lloyd, which evinces his accustomed grasp of mind, no doubt contributed greatly to this result.

IMPORTANT TO JURORS.—In the court of Queen's Bench, on Wednesday, Mr Platt moved for a rule to show cause why a writ of *certiorari* should not issue to remove the inquisition of a coroner's jury, with a view to have part of it expunged. In the case of Charlotte Griffin, a suicide, the jury added to a verdict "Temporary Insanity" a reflection on "the cruel and heartless conduct of Charles James Scratchley, B.A.;" and in consequence, Mr Scratchley has been suspended from his functions as a minister, by the Bishop of London. The object was to have the latter part of the verdict expunged. Lord Denman said that the latter part of the verdict was wholly irrelevant; the Bishop ought not to have acted on it; and he was not sure that it would not have subjected the parties to an action for libel. But there was no authority for expunging merely irrelevant matter. It is, however, proper that jurors should know that they have no power whatever to decide any question whatever but that which is submitted to them by the law; and that, when they undertake to do more, they do that which is an injurious exercise of a power which they do not possess. Rule refused.

EARLY CLOSING OF TRADESMEN'S SHOPS.—The Lord Mayor stated on Thursday, at the Mansion-house, that his attention had been called to a subject which appeared to him of a very important nature. A highly respectable firm in the borough of Southwark, who, to their credit, took an interest in the intellectual and moral welfare of that numerous class of persons, shopkeepers' assistants, had urged him in a letter, backed by an address from the town of Liverpool, to make an effort for the limitation of business hours in the metropolis and its environs. The letter and the address, which recommended the closing of all shops at seven o'clock, having been read, his lordship said that there was everything in the important results of such a change in favour of its adoption, and nothing, so far as he could see, to discourage the attempt as impracticable. He understood that in Liverpool the experiment was in progress, and he was happy to say, with every prospect of success. Why should it not be equally successful in London? He could only say for his own part that he would most willingly exert himself in

any way that could be pointed out to forward a proceeding so benevolent in its objects, and so truly beneficial in all its consequences, as the closing of the shops in the metropolis at seven o'clock in the evening. Under the existing custom of keeping the shops open until late hours, the whole time of those who attended them was occupied in business, and they had no opportunity for mental culture or reflection at a period of life when it was of the utmost consequence that the mind should be exercised in useful and virtuous pursuits. The consequence was obvious. Those young persons who were employed in shops when the hour of relaxation came were, at present, too much exhausted to employ it in mental exertions. The most common mechanic was better off than the poor people whose cause the Liverpool committee were so warmly advocating; for the work of the mechanic was over at six o'clock in the evening. Now, if the shops were closed at seven o'clock, ample time would be afforded for business, and some portion of that invaluable possession, with the whole of which no man ought to be required to part, as the bargain would include the surrender of intellectual, and moral, and religious advantages, would be left for the improvement of their minds and the general elevation in the scale of existence of a very large class of their fellow-men. He trusted that effectual steps would be soon taken in London to accomplish so desirable an object.

FATAL STEAM-BOAT COLLISION.—On Saturday last a young man named Samuel T. Lebart, one of the principals at Hermenegild, Castellain, and Co.'s, merchants in the city, was with a friend on board the yacht *Chameleon*, off Greenwich. They had just hove the anchor, and were proceeding on their cruise, when, as the vessel was "in stays," she was run into by the Royal Adelaide Leith steam ship, and struck in the starboard quarter. The deceased had but a few minutes before gone down into the cabin to sleep for a few hours, singing as he went down the companion ladder the old pilot's ditty, "Fear not, but trust in Providence," and hearing some confusion he rushed upon deck, and it was supposed must have been thrown overboard by the shock, and struck by the paddles, as he was an excellent swimmer, and had saved two young ladies from drowning in Ramsgate harbour, for which heroism he had been presented with a gold medal and vote of thanks by the Royal Humane Society. His parents resided at Ramsgate, his father being Lloyd's agent for that port. The inquest was adjourned for further inquiry. It seems that a painful fatality attends the deceased's family, for one of his brothers was drowned off Deal a short time ago under somewhat similar circumstances to the above.

THE WEST-END GAMBLING HOUSES.—The attention of the government having been aroused by the powerful appeals made to them with respect to the gambling houses at the west end, orders have been issued to the commissioners of police to enter, by force if necessary, all which were suspected, and respecting which two housekeepers had in writing sent in the notices required by the act of parliament. Acting upon this order, the commissioners of police, after receiving the written affidavits of two respectable inhabitants of the parish of St James, Westminster, matured a plan, and, in obedience to their orders, between twelve and one o'clock on Tuesday night and Wednesday morning, detachments from the C, R, P, D, G, S, A, L, F, B, and V divisions, each headed by the superintendent of the respective divisions, armed with axes, crowbars, ladders, and everything necessary to force an entrance if it was denied, proceeded on this service. At one o'clock, each party succeeded in entering the particular gaming house they were ordered to attack, and in securing an immense quantity of gaming implements, IOU's, and cash to the amount of nearly £3,000, and also in capturing seventy-three persons, several of whom move in the first circles. The interest excited by such a novel proceeding was intense. The hearing of the case occupied seven hours, and the result was that most of the parties were fined in sums from £60 downwards, failing which to be imprisoned. Intimations of appeal against the decisions of the magistrate, Mr Hardwicke, were given, and bail accepted in the meantime. Others submitted at once to the judgment passed.

THE MARYLEBONE MURDER.—At the Central Criminal court, on Wednesday, William Crouch, a groom, aged twenty-eight, was charged with the wilful murder of his wife, Frances Elizabeth Crouch, in Little Marylebone street, on the 30th March. The evidence did not differ from that given at the coroner's inquest. The defence offered by his counsel was that he was of unsound mind. Mr Thomas Jolliffe Tuffnell, a surgeon, said that, in 1838, Crouch was in the service of Sir Lawrence Palk; when he fell from a horse, hit his head against a stone, and suffered concussion of the brain: he was admitted into the Devon and Exeter hospital, where he was senseless for three days, and could not answer a question for six. He was particularly apt to be excited by drink. Mr Baron Alderson pointed out to the jury, that insanity produced, however readily, by drink, is no defence, because the taking the alcohol is a voluntary act. The jury retired at four o'clock, and not agreeing to their verdict, they were locked up for the night. On Thursday, they were still at issue, exhausted with want of food, and anxious to be discharged. Being summoned into court, they told the judge that their only difficulty was the question of insanity. Mr Baron Alderson further explained the law; and eventually the jury pronounced a verdict of "Guilty." The jury were in deliberation upwards of thirty hours, without the slightest refreshment. Sentence of death was pronounced on the prisoner.

PROVINCIAL.

We learn with much pleasure that the friends of College chapel have completed the purchase of a piece of ground on which to erect a commodious day-school in connexion with that chapel. The ground selected for this purpose lies off High street, at the junction of the road leading from that street to Airedale college, and consists of about two thousand square yards. Steps are to be taken immediately to commence the building of the school, and we understand that the want of funds will be no impediment in the way of its speedy completion. Mrs Bacon and Robert Milligan, Esq., have each subscribed the munificent sum of £500, and other friends have given handsome donations towards this laudable object.—*Bradford Observer*.

ABINGDON ELECTION.—On Saturday Mr Frederick Thesiger, her Majesty's solicitor-general, was "duly elected" member of parliament for the borough of Abingdon. The correspondent of the *Chronicle* gives an amusing account of the election, from which it would appear that Mr Thesiger again acts in the capacity of "warming pan," but in this instance for the son of the retiring member, Mr Duffield, who is not yet of age. In Oxford it was reported that Mr Duffield's *quid pro quo* was the sum of £7,500 from the treasury. Such a report cannot have any foundation in fact, and was not credited in Abingdon. The general belief at Abingdon is, that a baronetcy will be the ministerial acknowledgment of Mr Duffield's well-timed acceptance of the Chiltern hundreds in favour of her Majesty's solicitor-general. A Mr Southby threatened opposition, but did not make his appearance. An address, signed by Mr Sturge, president of the National Complete Suffrage Union, was put forth, but no candidate appeared. The fear of opposition, however, made Mr Thesiger re-canvass the electors on Friday. Here is a picture which will vie with any of the scenes that were so common previous to the Reform bill:—

"The election is the memorable thing at most boroughs, but the chalking is considered of most importance at Abingdon; for it has been the custom, time out of mind, for the new member to carry in his lap a bag of silver coin, the contents of which he flings among the crowds who accompany him. When Mr John Maberley represented Abingdon, the 'scramble money,' as it is called, was from £100 to £120. Mr Duffield used to fling about not more than £70. On Saturday Mr Thesiger thus threw away about £50. It was amusing to see the old women holding out their aprons to catch the sixpences and shillings which her Majesty's Solicitor-general, like 'an elegant gentleman' as he is, flung about. The scrambling, shouting, hustling, cursing, scratching, and fighting, which took place in the streets among men, women, and children, baffles description. And with this terminated Abingdon election."

A few more Woodstock and Abingdon elections will render the labours of the complete suffrage party almost superfluous.

SOUTH LANCASHIRE ELECTION.—Candidates for South Lancashire have been announced on both sides—Mr Wm Brown, of the Liverpool firm of Brown, Shipley, and Co., a free trader; and Mr William Entwistle, conservative, formerly an unsuccessful candidate. The contest is expected to be a severe one, and excites the greatest interest. The last registration was much in favour of the free traders. The free traders have the advantage of a good start, and from the excellent arrangements for the canvass, already in course of being carried out, there can be no doubt that they will make the best use of it.

TOWN'S MEETING IN BIRMINGHAM AGAINST THE NEW POOR LAW BILL.—On Monday the inhabitants of Birmingham held a public meeting, convened by Thomas Weston, Esq., mayor, for the purpose of considering the propriety of petitioning parliament against the claim of right of the poor-law commissioner to interfere with the management of the poor in the parishes having local acts, and against the extension of that right provided for in the bill now before the House of Commons to amend the New Poor Law. The meeting was most respectably attended, and amongst those present were J. Scholefield, Esq., M.P., G. F. Muntz, Esq., M.P., Alderman Cutler, G. V. Blunt, Esq., Councillors Barnett, Rodnay, Baldwin, Palmer, and a large body of the most influential rate-payers of the town. Mr Oastler upon this occasion made his "first appearance" before a Birmingham audience, and was very warmly greeted. Deputations attended from Bristol, Southampton, and other large towns.

THE COLLIERIES' STRIKE.—The pitmen's "strike" still continues, but there are now symptoms of a desire that it should end. The men are making overtures to the coal-owners for an interview, which, however, the Coal Trade Committee have refused to grant. Notwithstanding the "strike," there were more ships at the London market on the 1st of May than on the 5th of April. The prices, too, were lower on the former than on the latter day. So much for the notion that London cannot be supplied with coal unless with the aid of this district. When we think of the privations which the pitmen must now be enduring, we are surprised, not that some slight interruptions of the peace have occurred, but that they have not been more general.—*Gateshead Observer*.—The St Helen's strike may now be considered as completely at an end. We believe that all the pits have now their full complement of hands; and the general trade of the town is slowly recovering from the shock which it sustained by the strike.—*Liverpool Times*.—We are glad to hear that the colliers in the midland counties and in Yorkshire have resumed work, it being understood that they will be able to earn about four shillings per day of twelve hours.—*Durham Chronicle*.

BATHS IN MILLS.—We are glad to perceive that the suggestions of Mr Simpson, of Edinburgh, for baths in factories, &c., are likely to be carried into general effect. Messrs P. Catterall and Co. are setting the example to the mill-owners of Preston, by erecting spacious baths in connexion with their works, for the accommodation of all ages and both sexes.—*Preston Guardian*.

CURIOUS CASE.—A married female, residing at Distington, previous to last week, suffered severely for some months past from a pain in the stomach, and every means adopted for its removal proved of no avail. On Wednesday last, however, during a fit of coughing, she ejected from her stomach a living reptile, about twelve inches in length, resembling the water asp, and has ever since been comparatively free from the pain she had hitherto endured. It is conjectured that the reptile had been swallowed in water when very small, and that it had attained its great size in the stomach of the unfortunate woman, who had been so long tortured by her strange and unnatural lodger.—*Cumberland Pacquet*.

EXTENSIVE CONFLAGRATION.—On Monday morning the chief insurance offices in the city received letters from Lyme Regis, in Dorset, containing intelligence of a most extensive conflagration, which took place in that town on Saturday last, consuming in its progress no fewer than fifty houses, the dwellings of respectable tradesmen, and including the Custom house, the Cup Hotel (the principal inn in the place), the George Inn, the Victoria Inn, the Crown Inn, the Pilot boat Inn, the Commercial and Conservative Reading rooms, and other buildings. The total amount of property consumed and damaged is calculated at from £30,000 to £40,000.

SPREAD OF INCENDIARISM.—Within the last few days fires have occurred at Chippenham, Wicken, South Lopham, North Lopham, Foulden, Exning, Barton Mills, Rattlesden Hall, Buxhall, Coddensham, and Thetford: we omit to notice three or four conflagrations believed to have originated accidentally. Want of employment, and the stringency of the poor law, aggravated by political agitation, and popular ignorance, are, we are compelled to believe, the causes of the terrible spirit of discontent that now pervades Suffolk, Essex, Cambridgeshire, Norfolk, &c.; and we would most earnestly implore the attention of our statesmen to the consideration of a subject which begins to be one of deep national importance.—*Ipswich Express*.

HORRIBLE ACCIDENT FROM A PIPE.—An occurrence of a distressing character took place last week on Freckleton marsh. A young man, named Walton Kirby, set off with the intention of proceeding to Preston with his intended bride to make some purchases. The latter, it appeared, had started before him, but he, not being aware of this, was loitering with the expectation of meeting her. He was, however, passed by a man who informed him that she was some distance in advance. On hearing this he took a short pipe, which he was smoking, from his mouth and put it in his coat pocket, and then started off at a quicker rate. A brisk wind was blowing, and it is believed that this caused the fragments of the tobacco in the pipe to set fire to his coat, which he did not perceive till it was beyond his power to extinguish the flames. A cottager, named Henry Harrison, having his attention attracted by flames, saw a man prostrate on the ground, but before he reached him the poor fellow had started off in the direction of the toll-gate, distant about a quarter of a mile. The flames had spread over his garments so rapidly that when he arrived at the gate-house scarcely a fragment of clothing was left upon his person, a belt which he wore only being entire; even his shoes were calcined by the fire. When Harrison arrived at the gate the poor man was imploring assistance from the gatekeeper, which, however, was inhumanly refused, and Harrison was under the necessity of taking him to his own cottage, distant upwards of a mile, where he furnished him with clothes. No hopes are entertained of his recovery.—*Preston Chronicle*.

IRELAND.

The state trials are once again suspended, the Court having postponed judgment until next term. The *Times* gives the following graphic description of the *Anale* on Tuesday:—

"The public was on the tiptoe of expectation—well-dressed ladies in a state of moderate excitement were visible in large numbers, the doors were crowded with ill-dressed gentlemen, all come down to hear what was to be stated by the judges with reference to the new trial in the great case of the Queen v. Daniel O'Connell and others. The gentry of the bar indeed shook their heads, and maintained a state of impassibility. But in vain. Public interest continued to increase, and would not be pooh-poohed. The public would not believe that the judgment of the court could be any longer delayed. Their lordships had come down to the court at an unusually early hour; and for what but to concoct their judgment? At ten o'clock they plunged into their chambers. At half-past eleven o'clock Mr Justice Burton emerged, and took his seat on the bench; Judges Crampton and Perrin shortly followed, wearing the appearance (it was remarked) of men who had been recently engaged in warm discussion; or, as we may more colloquially express it in England, hot and fussy. The court was very full; all the Crown lawyers, some of the counsel for the traversers, Messrs Kemmis, Steele, and Tierney were in their places. The Lord Chief Justice entered, fraught with the great secret. An ordinary motion had possession of the court, which did not stop, but ran on to its conclusion with importunate pertinacity. History records it all with that deliberate minuteness with which she is wont to dwell on the preliminaries to a great crisis. At last an opportunity offered, and the Lord Chief Justice spoke. 'Mr Attorney, I am sorry to

tell you that the Court find they cannot give judgment in the case until next term.' 'Ibi omnis effusus labor.' The interest vanished—the court was cleared—and the only remaining excitement was transferred to the *Irish Duke steamer*, and the extraordinary express which conveyed to our office this important intelligence in nineteen hours from the moment when the Lord Chief Justice was delivered of his announcement. And so ends Easter term where it began."

RUMOURD MARRIAGE OF MR O'CONNELL.—There is a rumour afloat which, it is stated, has caused considerable uneasiness and dissatisfaction among the immediate connexions of Mr Daniel O'Connell. It is, according to this report, credibly believed that the honourable and learned gentleman is about to re-enter the holy bonds of wedlock with the sister of a distinguished member of Trinity College, and moreover a staunch follower of the tenets of the church of England.—*Dublin Correspondent of the Times*.

THE POLICE SPY SYSTEM.—Mr Martley, Q.C., who presided at the investigation in Shinrone, has presented his report to the government, detailing the horrible system of getting up ribbon prosecutions in that part of the King's county in which policemen were implicated. It is said that the government have determined upon the dismissal of three of the police—one of them a person of superior station in the force—and also upon the removal to another station of a civil officer holding an appointment in the district. The provincial papers last received contain further revelations respecting this atrocious spy system. Revington, the principal witness, has made some extraordinary revelations. It is stated that more than thirty innocent persons in that district, within a few years, have been transported through the agency of policemen or their agents in this most nefarious business. Several of those prosecutions were for the possession of Ribbon documents, which, it seems, had been surreptitiously conveyed into the pockets of the parties selected for prosecution. Since the present government came into office, this villanous system has often been exposed; but the authorities did not deem it necessary to take any step to check the terrible evil. At length the police spy system has been actually forced upon the government, and arrangements have been completed for bringing the whole subject before parliament.

THE EDINBURGH PROFESSORSHIP OF MUSIC.—An Edinburgh correspondent informs us that the votes of the *Senatus Academicus* are equally divided between Mr Sterndale Bennett and Mr Donaldson, and that the casting vote will be given by a professor yet to be appointed—the professor of chemistry.

The public are now admitted *gratuitously* to the exhibition of the decorative designs at King street, St James's, for ornamenting the new palace at Westminster. It has been arranged that, except on Saturdays and levee days, all classes may view the exhibition.

LOVE OF FAME.—A Mr Hobart, who died the other day, has, by will, directed Mr Blake of Norwich to appropriate £4425 to the erection of an equestrian statue of himself!

THE GAME LAWS.—The landed legislators are passing another law for the better protection of their own exclusive claim to the birds of the air and the beasts of the field. It is thus described in the *Gloucestershire Chronicle*, one of the organs of the monopolists:—

The Night Poaching act, which has just passed the House of Commons, greatly extends all the pains and penalties imposed by the 9th Geo. IV., usually called the "Night Poaching act." It is not now necessary that a poacher should be found on "land, open or inclosed," if he is found at night, armed, with a "gun, net, or other engine," for the purpose of destroying game, "in or upon the sides of any public road, highway, road, or path, or at the openings, outlets, or gates leading from any such lands into such public roads," he is liable to be apprehended and punished as a "night poacher." It will henceforth be impossible for the poacher to evade punishment, for he cannot set out on his predatory excursions without rendering himself liable to be apprehended.

THE MAJESTY OF POVERTY.—There is the heroism which, at the houses of the poor, has made me see and feel the majesty of poverty; has in my eyes made starveling spinners and weavers more than kingly. It is a fine show, a golden sight, to see the crowning of a king. I have beheld the ceremony, with undazzled eyes have well considered all its blaze of splendour. A tender thing to think of is the kiss of peace; beautiful the homage; heart-stirring the voice of the champion, when the brave knight dashes his defying gauntlet on the marble stone; very solemn the anointing—and most uplifting the song of jubilate when all is done. But, sir, to my coarse apprehension, I have seen a nobler sight than this—a grander ceremony, even at the hearth-stone of the poor. I will show you a man, worn, spent; the bony outline of a human thing, with toil and want, cut, as with an iron tool, upon him; a man to whom the common pleasures of this our mortal heritage are unknown as the joys of Paradise. This man toils and starves, and starves and toils, even as the markets vary. Well, he keeps a heart, sound as oak, in his bosom. In the sanctity of his soul, bestows the kiss of peace upon a grudging world; he compels the homage of respect, and champions himself against the hardness of fortune. In his wretched homestead he is throned in the majesty of the affections. His suffering, patient, loving wife—his pale-faced, ill-clad children—are his queen and subjects. He is a king in heart, subduing and ruling the iron hours.—*Illuminated Magazine*.

EVERYBODY'S COLUMN.

It is now stated that the King of Hanover has given up the intention of visiting England this year.

It is stated that Louis Philippe has forbidden the admission of a magnificent marble bust of O'Connell, by Moore, to the Parisian exhibition of 1844.

Dr Johnson's definition of a ship was "A gaol, with a chance of drowning."

A person asked an Irishman why he wore his stockings the wrong side out? "Bekase," said he, "there's a hole on the other side."

A railway from Glasgow to Dumbarton and Lochlomond is projected. The cost is estimated at £300,000, being at the rate of £15,000 per mile.

In the course of his speech of three hours duration, on Monday last, Sir Robert Peel, the great ecotist of the day, contrived to use the word "I" no fewer than 322 times, being at the rate of nearly twice per minute.

A small quantity of white hellebore sprinkled over gooseberry bushes, in the proportion of about an ounce to thirty or forty bushes, will prevent the ravages of caterpillars.

The sentence on Lowther, who was convicted at the last York assizes of the murder of the Marquis of Normanby's gamekeeper, has been commuted to transportation for life.

The late Mr Brindell, barrister-at-law, has left by will £20,000 to the University college, London; Mr Bacon has left £28,000, subject to the life of his widow.

Last week two young men were tried for theft, in Guernsey, found guilty on their own confession, and banished to England for five and four years respectively.

It is said that amongst the police men on the Great Western railway are eight members of the Royal College of Surgeons and three solicitors.

FRENCH FOLLY.—A medal has been struck by command of the King, to celebrate the completion of the first detached fort of the fortifications of Paris.

A VALUABLE LEO.—A short time ago, a lunatic named Holiday died at St Martin's Retreat, Gate Helmsley, when the sum of £20 4s. 4d. was found in his cork leg.

Messrs Bright and Sons are erecting a new cotton mill, to be 300 feet long, 75 feet broad, and five stories high, at Cronkeyshaw, near Rochdale.

Sir Robert Peel stated, in the House of Commons, the other evening, that there are no fewer than 22,000 applicants for government situations. Out of this enormous multitude, how many have a chance of obtaining the object of their wishes?

CONSUMPTION.—The statistical reports issued by the Registrar-general, show that 59,025 deaths from pulmonary consumption take place in England and Wales annually.

Within the last month one man has been sentenced to a month's imprisonment for killing his father, another to seven years' transportation for stealing a fowl.

According to a report of the railway department of the Board of Trade, just published, the number of passengers on sixty-six railways, an average distance of fifteen miles each, during the last year, was 24,000,000, of whom only one met with a fatal accident.

Above one hundred committees, formed in various parts of the country, are already in co-operation with the London committee for promoting the testimonial to Rowland Hill. The most eminent merchants and bankers of the city have subscribed towards the fund.

THE CLOWN AND THE CRITIC.—A celebrated clown once produced on the stage a rusty old sword. "This," said he, "is the sword with which Baalam smote his ass." One of the audience replied, "I thought he had no sword, but only wished for one." "You're right," rejoined the clown, "and this is the very sword he wished for."

BEER.—A return to an order of the hon. the House of Commons, dated the 2nd of April, 1844, for an account of the quantity of beer exported, from the 5th day of January, 1843, to the 5th day of January, 1844, gives 146,621 as the number of barrels of beer on which drawback was paid.

GIPSY WIT.—A short time since, two young ladies near Camberwell were accosted by a gipsy woman, who told them that, for a shilling each, she would show them their husbands' faces in a pail of water; which being brought, they exclaimed, "Why, we only see our own faces!" "Well," said the old woman, "those will be your husbands' faces when you are married."

A traveler on the continent, visiting a cathedral, was shown by the sacristan, among other marvels, a dirty opaque phial. After eyeing it for some time, the traveler said, "Do you call this a relic?" "Sir," said the sacristan indignantly, "it contains some of the darkness that Moses spread over the land of Egypt."

CURE FOR BURNS.—After opening the vesicles, if they are formed, the part is dipped in cold water, and then plunged, still wet, into flour, keeping it there for a minute or two; by this means a certain quantity adheres to the part, and prevents the access of the air. It is remarkable that the flour falls in scales from the surrounding part the next day, whilst on the burn it remains adherent.—*Medical Times*.

Prince Metternich wrote to M. Jules Janin, requesting his autograph. The witty author wrote as follows:—"Received from his excellency Prince Metternich twenty-four bottles of Johannisberg, first quality." The wine was instantly dispatched by the autograph collector, who preserved the receipt with more care than the writer preserved the Johannisberg.

Literature.

Ancient Christianity, and the Doctrines of the Oxford Tracts for the Times. By the author of "Spiritual Despotism." Jackson and Walford. 2 vols.

It is one of the gravest questions of the day—What is the best means of meeting that system which, standing on the territory of protestantism, is labouring to bring back all the old antichristian errors? for that it is our duty to meet it, we do not entertain a doubt. We are not sure that dissenters are fully aware of the evil, or that they have not, far too superciliously, underrated its danger. We could undertake, were this the fitting place, to demonstrate, by broad and palpable facts, that even in some of our own circles the influence of this heresy has made way to a greater extent than is generally suspected.

It is obvious the most effective mode of meeting it is by a full, clear, and frequent enunciation of all antagonist truths. The spirituality of religion as opposed to formalism; the doctrine of free salvation as opposed to all meritorious claim; the conversion of the heart as opposed to the alleged influence of the sacraments; the sufficiency of God's truth without intermixture of man's traditional error—these are cardinal points to be kept in view in our attack upon it. The employment of these, not in vulgar tirade nor in noisy declamation, but with the firmness of deep conviction and the energy of conscious power, constitutes the greatest means of effectual opposition to the erroneous system.

It is equally evident that in attacking the system which now usurps the name of catholic, we shall lose one of the strongest of all arguments against it, unless we contrast it often with the simple verity, the unostentatious beauty, the unestablished power, which characterised religion in its early ages. Puseyism is the natural production of a state church. For its disclaimers of that alliance we care little. We see through the veil. If it denounces alliance with the state, it is only because the hierarchy would rule the state, instead of allowing the state to rule the hierarchy.

We have a strong opinion too, apart from all scriptural argument, of the unspeakable value of bringing an article, much decried by Puseyites, but a valuable commodity nevertheless, *common sense*, to bear upon the business. It did good service at the reformation. We have no doubt that it would be equally valuable now. It is a catapult which can discharge most formidable artillery. Puseyism dreads it; and, therefore, should be made to feel its force.

Nor are we disposed to undervalue satire, as one of the weapons which in able hands may be usefully employed. Ridicule is not indeed the test of truth, but it is often the antagonist of error. Puseyism lies peculiarly open to its effective attack, while its depreciation of ridicule shows its sensitiveness to the wound.

In its place, too, *argumentum ad hominem* may be of special service. It may not annihilate, but it will often silence; and it is something, if we can prove that these would-be infallibles are not true to their own much-boasted principles.

In "Spiritual Christianity" Mr Taylor has employed the first argument. He here avails himself of the last.

Our author, setting aside those doctrines which are peculiarly Roman, addresses himself to the views of the earlier fathers. He contends that, as the Oxford tract writers have made their appeal to this authority, they are bound to take it in its whole platitude. He shows that the celibate was an integral part of early Christianity; and, that they who contend for the Christianity of the first centuries, are bound to take the doctrine of the celibacy as part of the award. As this was written in 1839, the *reductio ad absurdum* (for monkery is no less) appeared complete. Yet, as if to show the defect of this kind of argument, scarcely was the ink which penned it dry, when the Anglo-catholic party adopted this tenet also: maintaining thus indeed a consistency with themselves, but spoiling thereby many pages of admirable writing.

A very valuable chapter attempts to estimate the general quality of the Nicene theology. The disregard shown to the more evangelical doctrines—the preposterous confounding of justification with the grace of baptism—the exsiccation of all Christian truths—"the glorification of the rites, forms, dignities, and exterior apparatus of Christianity"—all prove the system to be, as our author shows, "precisely what popery has always been—a religion of sacraments."—p. 257.

The third number treats principally of asceticism and miracle. Those who have happened to go at all into this subject will appreciate the delicacy with which Mr Taylor has handled it—we may add, the *force* too! We make an extract:—

"The lives of the saints! Who, now-a-days, thinks about the lives of the saints?—or who would waste an hour in the serious endeavour to expose its fictions to contempt? Unhappily, we are not yet free to treat these romances with the silent neglect they deserve; and why we are not, is easily shown:—Let any one open Butler's volumes at hazard, and without looking to the dates of

the several lives therein related, let him select a few which appear the most ridiculously absurd, or which are on any account peculiarly offensive, and I will venture to predict that these articles so distinguished by their extravagance and folly, will turn out to be Nicene, and not popish stories. * * * If the lives of the saints, as a whole, be worthy of contempt, the principal stress of this contempt falls not upon the church of Rome, but upon the church of the third and fourth centuries."—p. 348.

The fourth number exhibits the church, as depicted by our Lord and his apostles, in forcible contrast with the representations of anglo-catholicism.

In the following number, which contains a "general reply to objections by a re-statement of the question," the following passage occurs. It exhibits the gist of the controversy. The author supposes an endeavour to set up "the practices and opinions of the transatlantic church as of equal authority with the scriptures."

"We should then be compelled to go a step further; not indeed, as if we wished to blacken the church in question; but merely intending to expose the foolish superstition of its admirers, among ourselves. With this view, we allege the fact of the existence of slavery, and under aggravating circumstances, in America. * * * Now this further fact we appeal to, not as if it proved that there is no piety on the other side of the Atlantic. We better know how to make allowance for other men's views of what appears to us utterly wrong. But we confidently appeal to it; first, as a proof * * * that no such exalted excellence as has been alleged, can really belong to a Christian community labouring under so heavy a disadvantage; secondly, as the sure indication of some capital vice or deficiency in its doctrinal or ethical system; and thirdly, as a sufficient reason for rejecting the hypothesis that the Lord himself is, in some peculiar and extraordinary manner, present with that church; thence, and by that medium, issuing his commands to other churches."

"But yet further, let us suppose that in opposition to its admirers, there are certain religious bodies on this side the Atlantic, who loudly denounce the American slavery, and repeatedly call on their brethren to abandon it. Now, in reply to such a protest, the American pastors can do nothing more than send over an assortment of theological folios, the compositions of some of their body, and generally approved of by their laity; and then say—'See what books we write, and what we read, in America!—look into them—say if they are not orthodox—if they are not learned—if they do not breathe a heavenly temper—examine these volumes, and then blush for yourselves, in having arraigned us as unchristian in conduct!' This would be regarded as a very sorry defence, at once inconclusive and evasive. It would be thought so even if the 'library' of these transatlantic 'Fathers' contained works as edifying as 'the confessions of St Augustine,' or 'the catechetical lectures of St Cyril at Jerusalem,' or 'the treatises of St Cyprian,' and the 'homilies of St Chrysostom.'"—pp. 31—33.

The author then shows that the moral enormities of the early church, as proved from the confession of its own writers, still more strongly invalidates the claim set up for it of special sanctity and authority.

Numbers 6 and 7 are devoted to the demonolatry and miracles of the fourth century, demonstrating that it was an unwarranted invention—the compound of superstition and fraud, leaving its inventors with no claim to be looked up to as authority, and that the modern endeavour to reinstate the Nicene system must be fatal to the church which favours it.

The eighth number is an attempt to condemn the anglo-catholic heresy by the principles of the church of England.

The last and supplementary number is very curious. "The book of homilies," as is well known, is mainly directed against the errors of Romanism, and abounds in citations from the fathers, seeming to corroborate its doctrines. Mr Taylor has shown that these quotations abound with literary inaccuracies; are often made from notoriously spurious productions, and sometimes make a father disapprove what, in reality, and sometimes on the very same page, he broadly recommends.

The chapter regarding the protestant calendar is also most edifying. Every Puseyite letter now-a-days ends with its solemn title, "Eve of St Mark," or some similar absurdity, well ridiculed by Sidney Smith, in his "Brewing-day, eve of Washing-day." Mr Taylor addresses himself to the examination of this calendar, proving the establishment to be still bearing the heraldic emblems of an idolatrous church.

Having thus endeavoured to give some general view of the contents of these really valuable volumes, a remark or two will suffice.

The Reward Unclaimed; or, the State Church Mortally Wounded. London: Dinnis.

This is the production of a man evidently unused to composition. It is one of the most perfect rhapsodies we ever read. Characterised by great sincerity and earnestness, it wants point. While we honour the writer's conscientiousness, we candidly confess, that if we were mustering our forces for a general attack on the state church, we should feel compelled to assign him the humble but necessary labours of powder-monkey. We dare not put him in the ranks; for, besides carrying a kicking pike, he is so affected with strabismus, that he would empty his cartridge of powder and shot, without doing more execution than if he fired at the moon with blank cartridge.

Cheerful Cherry; or, "Make the Best of it." With other Tales. By PETER PARLEY.

Wit Bought; or, the Life and Adventures of Robert

Merry. By PETER PARLEY. London: Darton and Clarke, Holborn hill.

No one name, surely, has ever belonged to so many individualities as Peter Parley! What notions children must entertain of so omnipresent a person puzzles our widest conjecture. The author of these volumes claims to be the real Simon Pure. It is not for us to determine so large a question; but this we may say, that if, as we believe, the original Peter is an American gentleman, there are transcendentalisms enough in these works to prove the correctness of his title.

We like to make our children the reviewers (to a certain extent) of books meant for their perusal. We gave them these, and can bear witness to the interest excited in their young minds. We found them straining their little eyes over them by fire-light, or nestling over them in a corner of the sofa. We will only add that the author is intent on enforcing sound morality by means of his tales.

The Morning of Life; a Contribution towards the Advancement of Youthful Piety. By a COUNTRY PASTOR. Snow. 1844.

If adaptation to its end merit the character of goodness, this is one of the best books we know. It is just the work which we would put into the hands of our young people (taking them as they rise) with a hope that, as it goes direct to its object, so it would go with equal directness to their consciences. The following are the subjects of the volume:—Young Men invited to Serious Consideration—Young Men guarded against Infidelity—Young Men directed to Just Views of Religion—Young Men aided in the Choice of Pleasures—the Claims of Religion urged on the immediate attention of Young Men—Pious Young Men considered in relation to the Times in which we live—to Youthful Members of the Female Sex—the Accomplishment of Pious Purposes divinely prevented—Hints on the Duties of Christian Electors. If there be any abatement to our praise, we make it in reference to the second lecture. Some of the subjects in it are, we think, too summarily treated.

LIST OF PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

1. *The Catholic Doctrine of the Atonement Vindicated* By A. MARSHALL, D.D., LL.D.
2. *The Itinerant and Sailor's Journal.* Nos. 5 to 10.
3. *Lay Lectures on Christian Faith and Practice.* By JOHN BULLAR.
4. *Report of the Committee of the Repeal Association on Joint Stock Banking in Ireland.*
5. *A Treatise on Congestion and Inactivity of the Liver.* By F. J. MORGROVE.
6. *The Farmers and the Anti-League.* By JAMES HILL.
7. *How ought Church Property to be vested?*
8. *Medical Times.* April.
9. *Home Missionary Magazine.* May.
10. *On Cases of Death by Starvation.* By J. L.
11. *The Teacher's Offering.* May.
12. *The National Temperance Magazine.* May.
13. *The Illuminated Magazine.* May.
14. *The Terms of Communion at the Lord's Table.* By R. B. C. HOWELL, A.M.
15. *Hymn to the Week above every Week.*
16. *Ireland and the Irish People.* By Dr SMILES.
17. *The Pictorial Sunday Book.* Part 5. C. Knight.
18. *Old England.* Part 5. C. Knight.
19. *The Book of the People.* By F. DE LAMENAIS.
20. *Discourses on the Proper Deity of the Son of God.* By T. EAST.
21. *The Case of the Free Church of Scotland.* By B. W. NOEL, M.A.
22. *The Scotch Trials.*
23. *A Church without a Prelate.* By LYMAN COLEMAN.
24. *Outlines of Congregationalism.* By J. S. PEARSON.
25. *Biblical Cabinet.* Vol. XLIII. Röhr's Historico-Geographical Account of Palestine.
26. *Biblical Cabinet.* Vols. XLIV., XLV. Tittmann's Commentary on the Gospel of John. 2 vols.
27. *Effects of Free Trade on the Operative Classes.*
28. *Lantern to the Jews.* By D. S. STRICKLAND.
29. *Hallelujah; or, Devotional Psalmody.* By J. BURDER, A.M., and J. J. WAITE.
30. *Philosophical Inquiry into the Intellectual Powers of the Negro.* By E. BINNS, M.D., F.S.A.
31. *The Past History and Future Destiny of Israel.* By R. WODROW, Esq.
32. *A Visit to my Fatherland.* By RIDLEY H. HERSCHELL.

Religious Intelligence.

DERBY.—The congregational chapel, London road, Derby, was opened for divine worship, by Dr Harris, of Cheshunt College, in the month of April last year. Since that period, a church, on congregational principles, has been formed in connexion with the place; from which Mr J. B. Brown, A.B., of Highbury College, has received and accepted a unanimous invitation to become its pastor. The anniversary of the opening of the chapel was thought to afford a favourable opportunity for the ordination of the minister, and was fixed on accordingly. The services were commenced on Wednesday evening, April 24, when Mr J. Corbin conducted the devotional exercises, and Mr J. Parsons, of York, preached. The service on Thursday morning was commenced by Mr Cook, of Uttoxeter, who read the Scriptures and prayed. Mr J. Gawthorn delivered the introductory discourse, in which he conclusively proved from the word of God, the scriptural constitution of voluntary congregational churches; and from Scripture, reason, and history, the corrupting and deplorable consequences of the establishment principle. The usual questions were proposed by Mr Thomas James, of Woolwich. The ordination prayer was offered by Mr J. A. James, of Birmingham. The charge to the minister was delivered by Dr Leifchild, of London, and that to the people by Dr Raffles, of Liverpool. Nearly a hundred ministers and friends dined together at the Royal hotel. In the evening the congregation again assembled, when Mr Wild, of Nottingham, commenced the service, and Mr James, of Birmingham, preached. On Sunday the 28th, Dr Leifchild preached in the morning and evening, and on Monday evening. The collections made at the close of the anniversary sermons amounted to £100.

At the close of the address on Monday evening, a few of the friends of the congregational cause in the town, met together in the vestry, and made an effort to remove the remaining debt on the building. More than £3,000 had been previously raised; and on this occasion the noble additional sum of £1,350 was subscribed on the understanding that the remaining part of the debt should be forthwith discharged.

REMOVAL OF MR PRITCHARD FROM TAHITI.—It is with feelings of regret and shame we announce that our government have so far truckled to the government of France, as not only to have assented to the base usurpation of France over the Society Islands, but actually to have removed the British consul, Mr Pritchard, at their request. Mr P. was formerly a missionary, and one who had contributed much to the evangelisation and civilising of these islands; and because he sympathised with the outraged queen Pomare he is hated by the French. Our government has removed Mr P. to the same office in the Navigator's islands, a much more numerous group than the Society islands, and also intimated that his removal is not intended as an act of censure; but still it will be felt as such in France, in England, and in Tahiti; and the poor inhabitants of the latter island will feel that they are deprived of their best protector, whilst the English missionaries there will consider the act as a solemn warning to themselves.—*Leeds Mercury.*

DONCASTER.—On Wednesday, April 24th, Mr G. B. Johnson, formerly of Coward college, late of East Retford, was ordained to the pastorate over the independent church in this town. Mr Thomas Stratten, of Hull, delivered the introductory discourse, which was an able and lucid defence of the order of the congregational ministry. The usual questions were proposed to the church and pastor by Mr J. E. Millson of Pontefract. Mr W. H. Stowell, of Rotherham, offered the ordination prayer. A very impressive charge was given to the pastor, by Dr Hamilton, of Leeds. In the evening a most faithful and affectionate discourse was delivered to the church and congregation by Mr M'All, of Nottingham, their late beloved pastor. The devotional parts of the services were conducted by Mr E. H. Delf, of Coventry; Mr Storow, of Bawtry; Mr Beddow, of Barnsley; M. Docker, of Melton; J. Hill, of Knottingby, and J. B. Johnson. The full attendance at each service, and the affectionate congratulations expressed, were such as to confirm the hope of future extended prosperity.

OPENING OF THE TOWN HALL, WARE, FOR PUBLIC WORSHIP.—On Sunday morning last, the town hall was opened for Divine worship, by the Rev. Robert Alder, D.D., a minister of the Wesleyan connexion. The prayers, lessons, and singing psalms, used on the occasion, were in strict accordance with the usage of the established church, and the sermon, which was powerful and eloquent, recommended the church as the bulwark of the nation. Mr Bishop, from London, presided at the organ. The services were performed in the most solemn and impressive manner, and much to the satisfaction of the congregation, amounting, we are informed, to 230 persons. In future, the services are to be performed alternately in the morning and afternoon, being once only on each Sunday. We are informed that an attempt was made last week to reconcile the differences between the vicar and the parishioners, but we regret to hear that it has proved unsuccessful.—*Hertford Reformer.*

BASSINGBOURNE, CAMBRIDGESHIRE.—Mr John Harsaut, late of Homerton College, has accepted a unanimous invitation from the church and congregation in that place to become their pastor, and enters on his stated labours on the third Sabbath in this month.

RICHMOND.—Mr Evan Davis, of Walthamstow, has accepted the invitation of the independent church, Richmond, Surrey, to become their pastor, and will enter on his ministerial duties forthwith.

STOCKPORT.—On Wednesday, May 1, a congregational tea party of the friends connected with the Tabernacle, Stockport, was held in the British schools, on which occasion an elegant tea service was presented to the pastor, of the value of £38, which had been projected by the Sunday-school teachers, and was subscribed for by 150 members of the church and congregation. The following inscription was engraved on the plate:—

"Presented to the Rev. John Thornton, by the church and congregation of the Tabernacle, as a slight tribute of their affectionate regard for the faithful discharge of his pastoral duties, and zealous and disinterested exertions in originating and promoting the erection of the British, Infant, and Sunday-schools."

"Stockport, 1 May, 1844."

BIRTHS.

May 6, at Southampton, the wife of Mr R. LANKESTER, of a son.
May 8, at Evington hall, near Leicester, the lady of HENRY FREEMAN COLEMAN, Esq., of a daughter.
May 9, at North Petherton, Somerset, the wife of Mr GEORGE PINKSTONE, of a son.
May 12, in Canonbury square, Mrs W. E. SPICER, of a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

May 4, at the independent chapel, Holywell, Flintshire, by Mr D. W. Jones, minister, Mr E. WILLIAMS, to Miss E. WILLIAMS.
May 8, at the baptist chapel, Amersham, by Mr W. A. Salter, HENRY APPLETON, Esq., surgeon, of Mare street, Hackney, to SARAH HONNER MORTON, only daughter of William Morten, Esq., of Amersham.
May 8, at St Peter's chapel, Leeds, by Mr Thomas Harris, Mr JAMES BROOKES, painter, to Mrs JANE HEAP.
May 8, at Park chapel, Leeds, by Mr Joseph Saul, Mr GEORGE POTTER, hatter, to Miss ELIZABETH SIMPSON.
May 8, at Lady lane chapel, Leeds, by Mr Joseph Saul, Mr W. LISTER, to Miss SARAH WORRELL.
May 8, at Cow lane chapel, Coventry, by Mr F. Franklin, Mr DANIEL HACKETT, to Miss SARAHAN ALBERTA TAYLOR.
May 9, at Cow lane chapel, Coventry, by Mr F. Franklin, Mr JONATHAN HARRISON, to Miss RUTH SHAKESPEARE.

May 9, by Mr E. C. Lewis, in the Countess of Huntingdon's chapel, Rochdale, Mr ABRAHAM BAKER, to Miss JANE WORTH, both of Rochdale.

May 9, at King Street chapel, Canterbury, by Mr William Davies, Mr HENRY JOHN GAMBLE, minister of the gospel, of Margate, only son of Henry Gamble, Esq., late of Hackney, to SARAH, daughter of Abraham Flint, Esq., of Canterbury.

DEATHS.

May 4, aged 12 years, JOSIAH, son of Mr William PRENTICE, of Stowmarket.

May 11, at Farringdon, Berks, aged 57, Mr EDMUND PRAPLE, for many years a deacon of the congregational church in the above town.

Trade and Commerce.

LONDON GAZETTE.

Friday, May 10.

The following buildings are certified as places duly registered for solemnising marriages, pursuant to the act of 6 and 7 William IV., cap. 85:—

Bethel Baptist chapel, Franksbridge, Radnorshire.
The Wesleyan Methodist chapel, Lower Mitton, Kidderminster.

BANKRUPTCY ANNULLED.

SALVI, GIOVANNI BATTISTA, 10, Duke street, Portland place, wine merchant.

BANKRUPTS.

BANNER, FRANCIS, 82, Upper Thames street, provision merchant, May 22, June 21: solicitors, Messrs Badham and Houghton, 4, Verulam buildings, Gray's Inn.

BRUNSWICK, MOYSE, Lime street, merchant, May 22, June 21: solicitors, Messrs J. and C. Robinson, Queen Street place.

CLARK, JOSEPH, Mincing lane, Fenchurch street, colonial broker, May 21, June 21: solicitors, Messrs Casterton and Co., Angel court, Throgmorton street.

DIXON, JOHN, Sheffield, linen draper, May 22, July 3: solicitors, Mr Walker, Furnival's Inn, London, and Mr Blackburn, Leeds.

ELLIOTT, JAMES, Caxton, Cambridgeshire, innkeeper, May 24, June 21: solicitors, Messrs Peppercorn and Wilkinson, St Neots, and Mr T. Mitton, 23, Southampton buildings, Chancery lane.

KEMPSTER, THOMAS, Blackman street, Southwark, and late of Fenchurch buildings, City, builder, May 22, June 26: solicitors, Messrs Stenning and Carnell, Tonbridge, and Mr C. Stenning, Staple inn, London.

PARKER, GEORGE, Sheffield, spade manufacturer, May 25, June 22: solicitors, Mr Duncan, Featherstone buildings, London, Mr Unwin, Sheffield, and Mr Blackburn, Leeds.

SAXBY, RICHARD SCRASE, Old Fish street, wine merchant, May 21, June 18: solicitors, Messrs Gilbert and Co., 1, Brabant court, Philipot lane.

STYLES, CHARLES, Worthing, Sussex, grocer, May 21, June 26: solicitors, Messrs Buchanan and Grainger, Basinghall street.

WOODROFFE, SAMUEL, Chesham, Monmouthshire, wine merchant, May 17, June 21: solicitors, Messrs W. and C. Beavan, Small street.

SCOTCH REGISTRATION.

MATHISON, JOHN, Helmsdale, fish curer, May 17, June 7.

DIVIDENDS.

W. Judd, Romsey, Hampshire, mealman; first div. of 1s. 6d. in the pound, any Wednesday—W. Hudson, ship Orelia, master mariner; first div. of 1s. 8d. in the pound, any Wednesday—S. Martin, Shoreditch, grocer; first div. of 5s. in the pound, any Wednesday—R. Griffiths, Nine Elms, and Belmont place, Vauxhall, coal merchant; first div. of 1s. 2d. in the pound, any Wednesday—F. Barry, Eya, miller; first div. of 2s. 6d. in the pound, any Wednesday—T. Foster and Co., Carlisle, bankers; fifth and final div. of 1s. 3d. and 53s. 1000ths part of a penny in the pound (in addition to 12s. previously declared), on May 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 21, and 22, and on Saturday, May 18, or any following Saturday—J. Bumby, Malton, Yorkshire, hatter; first and final div. of 4s. 1d. in the pound, any Thursday—E. Hancock, Sheffield, hackneyman; second and final div. of 1s. 5d. in the pound, any day on and after May 13—Harford, Davies, and Co., Bristol, and Ebbw Vale and Sirhowy, Monmouthshire, iron masters; div. of 13s. 4d. in the pound, in the following order:—From No. 1 to 160, May 15; 160 to 330, 16th; 330 to 483, 17th; and any following Wednesday.

Tuesday, May 14th.

The following building is certified as a place duly registered for solemnising marriages, pursuant to the act of 6 and 7 William IV., cap. 85:—

Magdalen Street chapel, Olstonbury, Somersetshire.

BANKRUPTS.

AUSTIN, JOHN SCHMAN, Bedford, surveyor, May 21, June 21: solicitors, Messrs Buchanan and Grainger, 8, Basinghall street.

BAKER, JOHN, late of Romsey, Hampshire, grocer, May 24, June 21: solicitors, Mr H. P. Curtis, Romsey; Messrs Bower and Son, Chancery lane, London.

BRENNAN, ELIAS, Highgate, ironmonger, May 21, June 25: solicitor, Mr William Bartholomew, Gray's Inn.

BROWN, EDWARD, Birmingham, merchant, May 24, June 26: solicitors, Messrs J. W. and G. Whately, Birmingham.

BURTON, WILLIAM, 28, King street, Soho, upholsterer, May 22: solicitor, Mr Bennett, Bloomsbury square.

DRAKE, HENRY, Barnstable, Devonshire, attorney at law, May 28, June 26: solicitors, Messrs Bebridge and Toller, Barnstable; Mr W. Denis Moore, Exeter; and Mr Thomas Toller, Gray's Inn square, London.

FOSTER, EDWIN, Dover, tailor, May 21: solicitors, Messrs Dods and Linklaters, 115, Leadenhall street, City.

HARRIS, JOHN WINDOW, Wolverhampton, wine merchant, May 24, June 18: solicitors, Messrs Phillips and Bolton, Wolverhampton.

HAYWARD, ELIZABETH, Castle Hedingham, Essex, innkeeper, May 22, June 25: solicitor, Mr T. Marston, 66, Torrington square.

HOWDEN, JOSEPH, Wakefield, ironfounder, May 25, June 18: solicitors, Messrs Willis and Co., Tokenhouse yard, London, and Mr Sykes, Wakefield.

LANCFIELD, THOMAS COURTNEY, Augustus square, Regent's park, builder, May 24, June 25: solicitors, Messrs Venning and Co., Tokenhouse yard.

PLIDGER, JOHN, Vauxhall street, Lambeth, bricklayer, May 24, June 25: solicitor, Mr Harper, Kennington cross.

POLAK, JAMES MICHAEL, 4, Coleman Street buildings, City, merchant, May 24, June 21: solicitors, Messrs Maltby and Grant, 10, Broad Street buildings.

REEVE, EDWIN, Liverpool, fruiterer, May 24, June 20: solicitors, Messrs Holmes and Co., 10, New Inn, London; and Mr Booker, Liverpool.

RICHARDSON, RICHARD, Manchester, gambrone manufacturer, June 10, 24: solicitors, Messrs Reed and Shaw, Friday street, Cheapside, London; and Messrs Sale and Worthington, Manchester.

TODD, JOHN, sen., and JOHN, jun., 7, Bury street, Bloomsbury, ironmongers, May 28, July 3: solicitor, Mr Roberts, 2, Bride court, Fleet street.

WETMORE, THOMAS HEWETT, Worcester, grocer, May 23, June 24: solicitors, Mr Charles Berkeley, Lincoln's Inn fields, London; and Mr Haré, Birmingham.

DIVIDENDS.

T. E. Rowley, 261, Oxford street; second div. of 3d. in the pound, any Wednesday—Oliver and York, Stoney Stratford, Buckinghamshire, bankers; second div. of 15s. in the pound, any Wednesday—J. Bell, Basford, Nottinghamshire, hosier; first and final div. of 1d. in the pound, any Tuesday—W. Bushell, Evesham, Worcestershire, innkeeper; further div. of one penny and nine-sixteenths of a penny in the pound, May 16, and any following Thursday—J. Overington, Arundel, Sussex, plumber; first div. of 6s. 8d. in the pound, any Wednesday—E. Cooper, Trowbridge, Wiltshire, clothier; second div. of 8d. in the pound, any Wednesday—E. E. P. B., and J. A. Cooper, Trowbridge, clothiers; fourth div. of 2d. in the pound, any Wednesday—W. P. P., Old Brompton, Middlesex, and Barnes, Surrey, builder; first div. of 6d. in the pound, May 22, and the following

Wednesdays—J. Middleton, Broad street, warehouseman; third div. of 8d. in the pound, May 13, and the two following Wednesdays.

BRITISH FUNDS.

Notwithstanding occasional slight fluctuations in price, the funds are upon the whole very firm, and a fair amount of business is transacting.

	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.	Sat.	Mon.	Tues.
3 per cent. Consols	99½	99½	99½	99½	99½	99½
Ditto for Account	99½	99½	99½	99½	99½	99½
3 per cent. Reduced	99	99	99	99	99	99
3½ per cent. Reduced	101½	101½	101½	101½	101½	101½
New 3½ per cent.	102½	102½	102½	102½	102½	102½
Long Annuities	12½	12½	12½	12½	12½	12½
Bank Stock	195	195	195	195	195	195
India Stock	290	290	290	290	290	290
Exchequer Bills	76pm	75pm	75pm	77pm	78pm	78pm
India Bonds	—	98pm	92pm	94pm	—	—

FOREIGN FUNDS.

Austrian	114	Mexican	36
Belgian	102	Peruvian	39
Brazilian	81	Portuguese 5 per cent	79
Buenos Ayres	38	Ditto 3 per cent	—
Columbian	15	Russian	118
Danish	68	Spanish Active	26
Dutch 2 per cent	61	Ditto Passive	6
Ditto 5 per cent	100½	Ditto Deferred	16

RAILWAY SHARES.

Birmingham and Derby	63	London and Brighton	45
Birmingham & Gloucester	91	London & Croydon Trunk	18
Blackwall	7	London and Greenwich	6
Bristol and Exeter	78	Ditto New	—
Cheltenham & Gt. Western	—	Manchester & Birm.	59
Eastern Counties	13	Manchester and Leeds	111
Edinburgh and Glasgow	64½	Midland Counties	90
Great North of England	100	Ditto Quarter Shares	32
Great Western	118	North Midland	91
Ditto Half	75	Ditto New	45
Ditto Fifth	21	South Eastern and Dover	37
London and Birmingham	231	South Western	85
Ditto Quarter Shares	28	Ditto New	—

MARKETS.

MARK LANE, MONDAY, May 13.

There was a liberal supply of English wheat this morning, the condition of which was middling; it sold 1s. to 2s. per qr under the terms of this day week. Good foreign wheat was inquired for, and supported last Monday's prices.

The arrivals of foreign barley were very large, but trifling of home growth. There was a fair extent of business done in it, at a little under the rates of last Monday.

Beans and peas each 1s. per qr dearer.

There were a good many cargoes of Irish oats fresh up this morning, in addition to the quantity stated in the return of last week's arrival. Oats maintained last Monday's prices, but the sales were limited, and the trade very slow.

Wheat, Red New	46 to 52	Malt, Ordinary	48 to 52
Fine	52 to 56	Pale	54 to 58
White	46 to 52	Rye	34 to 37
Fine	54 to 60	Peas, Hog	29 to 31
Flour, per sack	39 to 50	Maple	30 to 32
Barley	25 to 30	Boilers	32 to 34
Malt	30 to 33	Beans, Ticks	28 to 30

Beans, Pigeon	30 to 34	Wheat	17s. 0d.
Harrow	27 to 28	Barley	6 0
Oats, Feed	18 to 21	Oats	6 0
Fine	22 to 23	Rye	10 6
Poland	20 to 23	Beans	10 6
Potato	20 to 23	Peas	10 6

WEEKLY AVERAGE FOR MAY 10.			AGGREGATE AVERAGE OF THE SIX WEEKS.		
Wheat	55s.	3d.	Wheat	55s.	3d.
Barley	31	8	Barley	32	7
Oats	20	1	Oats	20	1
Rye	36	11	Rye	32	3
Beans	31	9	Beans	31	5
Peas	31	8	Peas	31	5

SEEDS.

The very dry weather has caused attention to be directed to red cloverseed, and its value has recently advanced several shillings per cwt. White seed remained dull. In other articles scarcely anything has been done.

Linseed	per qr	Clover	per cwt.
English, sowing	54s. to 56s.	English, red	52s. to 60
Baltic, ditto	—	Ditto, white	58 to 100
Ditto, crushing	40 to 42	Flemish, pale	48 to 50
Medit. A. Odessa	41 to 43	Ditto, fine	56 to 110
Hempseed, small	35 to 38	New Hamb., red	45 to 50
Large	—	Ditto, fine	54 to 110
Canary, new	51 to 52	Old Hamb., red	38 to 44
Extra	54 to —	Ditto, fine	54 to 105
Caraway, old	—	French, red	46 to 52
New	57 to 60	Ditto, white	—
Rye-grass, English	—	Coriander	15 to 20
Scotch	—	Old	—
Mustard, per bushel	—	Rapeseed	per last
Brown, new	12 to 17	English, new	26s. to 28s.
White	8 to 11	Linseed cakes	—
Trefoil	23 to 30	English	24. 10s. to 10s. 0s
Old	12 to 26	Foreign	24. 10s. to 24. 10s
Tares, new	4 to 5	Rapeseed cakes	4s. 10s. to 5s. 0s

PROVISIONS, LONDON, May 13.

Butter was not in such good demand; the sales of old Irish were more limited, and the prices equally as varied and irregular as previously noticed. A small quantity of new Limerick was sold at 80s. per cwt on board. Foreign, after advancing 2s., ended in dull sale at a decline of 2s. to 1s. per cwt. Bacon has not sold well, the transactions in singed sides being only to a limited extent, and in some instances the sellers have submitted to a reduction of 1s. to 2s. per cwt. Bale middles steady in price and demand. Tierces in slow sale, and a shade lower in value. Hams in good demand at full prices. Lard not altered in demand or value.

HOPS, BOROUGH, Monday, May 13.

Towards the close of last week the inquiry for hops began to revive, and prices were first called 2s. to 3s., and then 3s. to 3s., per cwt higher; and, as it is known that the stocks on hand are small, a further rise is not improbable. The usual reports of "fly" are in circulation, but these excite no real uneasiness, though they may stimulate speculative and even real purchasers. The show of samples is more limited. We have not yet heard of the duty being laid.

BUTCHER'S MEAT, SMITHFIELD, Monday, May 13.

The beef trade was unusually dull; and notwithstanding the salesmen gave way in prices from 2d. to 4d. per 8lbs., scarcely any progress was made in sales. During the past week about 50 beasts have been imported from Spain, Holland, and Germany, in, for the most part, miserable condition. The numbers of sheep were again extensive, yet the prime old Downs sold at prices fully equal to those obtained on this day se'night. The maddling and inferior kinds, however, were a shade lower. The lamb trade was by no means heavy, and last week's prices were supported. In calves, the supply of which was small, a moderate business was doing at previous currentities. The pork trade was in a sluggish state.